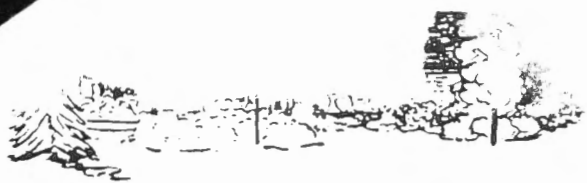


VEVAY TOWNSHIP



celebrates
150 YEARS

977.426
V



VEVAY TOWNSHIP HALL
780 S. EDEN ROAD
MASON, MI 48854

PHONE: 676-9523

SUPERVISOR Jeffrey R. Oesterle
CLERK Susan C. Kosier
TREASURER Linda S. Diamond
TRUSTEES John H. Coy
..... William R. Rogers

150 YEARS in VEVAY TOWNSHIP

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Our Township Government

Michigan Townships exist because of a combination of historical factors - the pattern set by the New England states, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, and Thomas Jefferson's personal philosophy. To a lesser degree, their development can be attributed to climate, soil conditions and Indians.

The Northwest ordinances, laws initiated by Thomas Jefferson, then a member of the Continental Congress, were adopted between 1785-1787, and paved the way for township development. Jefferson was enamored with the direct democracy being practiced in the New England towns and he envisioned that the subdivided units of the Northwest Territory would develop into like pure and elementary republics.

As adopted, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 provided for areas consisting of 36 sections, each of one (1) square mile. Today, townships range in population from a half-dozen families to more than 80,000 persons. One section, usually section 16, is set aside for public ownership and was often called the "school section" since money from the sale of the land was to be used to finance basic education.

Based on English traditions, the colonists might have established a strong county system of government supplemented by smaller units. New York politics, however, developed the pattern that was later brought to Michigan and other midwestern states by the early settlers. New York began with a New England town system and later attempted to establish counties to handle judicial and other matters. This led to disputes between those preferring town-type government and those advocating strong county government. A compromise came out of the struggle and it was this compromise that the pioneers of Michigan carried with them as they traveled across New York on the Erie Canal to settle the new frontier. It is also strongly suspected that the conditions that the settlers faced - the harsh winter climate,

soil conditions that would not support large concentrations of people, Indians, fishing & lumber economics and strong church orientation, led to the development of small, compact communities with a governmental style to match. Gradually, the southern and western states developed county systems, probably because their physical characteristics differed from those of New England. The weather was much more temperate, travel was easier on the wide flowing rivers and land grants were made to individuals rather than groups, leading to large plantation-type settlements.

Today, 22 states have townships, with Michigan's 1,244 rated in the top half in activity and authority. (The number of townships changes slightly due to increases caused by the subdividing of large townships and decreases as some incorporate as cities.)

Much of the power, duties and functions of townships are legislated by either enabling or mandated state statutes. Enabling or permissive laws do not require a township to act in a functional area, but rather allow the local officials to do so if they desire. They often prescribe, however, how a township will function once the township board votes to use the power they are thus granted. Mandating statutes require certain powers to be exercised and these laws are very specific in conveying instructions on how the laws are to be carried out.

Michigan law provides for two types of township government, General Law and Charter. (Vevay is organized under General Law.) The Charter Township Act of 1947 provided for greater taxing authority, greater territorial integrity and additional local government discretion. The act allows a township of 2,000 or more residents to adopt a resolution to organize under the Charter Township Act.

Township Government is conducted by a township board of trustees made up of five or seven members, depending on the desires of the inhabitants and the population. Board members are elected by partisan ballot to four year terms in even numbered

years. The board consists of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and two or four trustees. The duties of these elected officials can be summarized as follows:

Supervisor - is a voting member of, and presides over the township board, and is the chief assessing officer for both real and tangible property values within the township. Law requires that he be certified, if not, however, he is still responsible, in this capacity. (Many units employ professional certified assessors, as does Vevay.) He is the township's agent for transacting all legal business, is secretary to the Board of Review, may be a member of, but not chair the Planning Commission and is generally regarded as spokesman and political leader for the township.

Clerk - is a voting member of, and clerk for, the township board and is required to transcribe the minutes of every township meeting; is in charge of elections and chairs the Election Commission; is responsible for the voter registration and must keep appropriate records thereof; has custody of all recorded, books and papers of the township, if no other law so provides, and is the township's bookkeeper. State law now requires a uniform budget accounting system and annual audit.

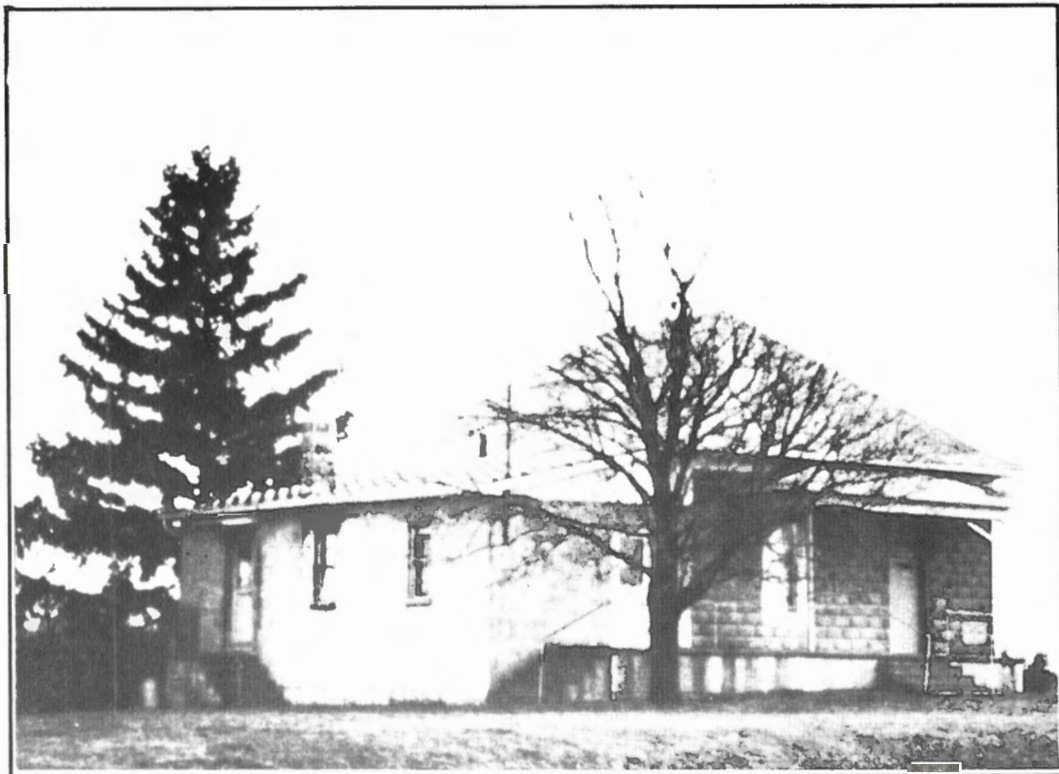
Treasurer - is a voting member of the township board; has custody of the township's money and securities and must keep funds in banks or financial institutions as required by the township board; pays out the township money upon the order of the clerk and is, within the township, the sole collector of township, school and county taxes.

Trustees - are voting members of the township board. Unlike the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer, they are not delegated specific statutory duties. As the name implies, trustees are individuals placed in a position of public trust with fiduciary responsibilities to manage the funds of the township in the best interest of the township. They are often given additional duties by board action and may be compensated for such duties, provided

compensation is authorized prior to engaging in the activity. Trustees may be members of the Planning Commission or the Board of Appeals.

The Northwest Ordinance has been called the most notable law ever enacted by a representative body in the United States, containing several articles of compact that provide the territories with: full religious freedom, civil rights and liberties, the forever encouragement of schools and education, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, and township government - the grassroots of democracy.

[Susan Kosier, Township Clerk]



OLD VEYAY TOWNSHIP HALL

1913-1978

From the Vevay Township Minutes Beginning in 1838:

On November 20th, of 1835, Charles Thayer, of Ann Arbor, entered the west half of northeast quarter and east half of northwest quarter, section 12, and other lands in Vevay.

First location of County (anciently the County Seat - the shire town) was at the quarter post between 1 and 12 in, or rather T2N, R1W.

The Territorial Law authorized the governor to appoint a commission to locate county seat sites. In the winter of 1835 and 1836, three commissioners were appointed, under the law, to locate the site of this county. They were: Washington Wing of Washtenaw; Mr. Brown of Detroit; and Mr. Crawford of Livingston.

In company with Mr. Charles Thayer, long a worthy citizen of this county, the commissioners and two or three of their friends visited the county in March. The snow was quite deep. After visiting the place where Mason now is and some other points, they established the site as I have said, at the quarter post between sections 1 and 12 in Vevay. (Note - this was on what is now the NE corner of Diamond & Columbia Roads).

Of course there was no house there at that time, but later a log house was erected there and was known as "County House". The place was called the Village of Ingham and there were 12 lots there. The legal site remained there until 1840, though no legal business was done there. In 1840 the site was removed to Mason by act of the Legislature.

Vevay was organized by the same act - the first meeting was held at Public House, then in Mason.

The County was organized this year (1838) by Act of April 5, 1838.

1839 - Assessment roll showed the valuation of taxable property in Vevay as \$52,956.00 and expenses as \$212.73.

1840 - The old county site on sections 1 and 12 Vevay, were vacated and Mason made the County Seat by Act of March 6, 1840. Population of the county was 2,498.

1847 - Location of the state capitol at Lansing

1875 - Ephraim Rolfe died

1877 - Nichols Lewis died

William H. Horton said the town officers were chosen in Vevay for the first two years, by a committee who selected the candidates and they were voted into office in about five minutes. In 1848, there were three parties - Democratic, Free Soil, Whig.

1878 - Almon Chapin died

1879 - Seventh Annual Meeting Historical Society

1880 - Eighth Annual Meeting Historical Society

1881 - Ninth Annual Meeting Historical Society at Rayner's Opera House, Deaths that year: Joseph Butler, Henry A. Hawley. D.L. Cady of Vevay was a member of the Society

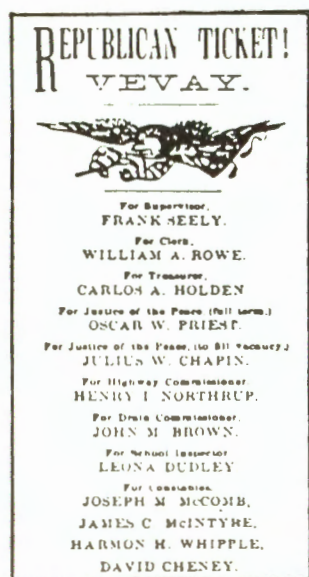
1882 - Tenth Annual Meeting Historical Society at Rayner Opera House. William H. Horton elected an officer

1883 - Eleventh Annual Meeting Historical Society. Vevay deaths: Mrs. Enos Northrup, Allen Hathaway, David Palmer, Moses Jacobs, William H. Horton, William Claflin, Margaret Hayes.

1884 - Historical Society reported the following deaths in Vevay: James Fuller, E.B. Smith, J.P. Reed and Mrs. Octavia Hubbard, who had the first white child born in Vevay Township - a son I.N. Wolcott.

1885 - Thirteenth Annual Meeting Historical Society reported the following deaths: Mrs. Crowl, Charles Teel, Frederick Gorham, Mrs. Andrew Markham, Mrs. Elizabeth Page. The Honorable Arnold Walker also visited. He came from New York to Ingham County in 1844, where he settled on a farm in Vevay and left it in charge of his family while he went to California in search of gold. He then moved to Mason and was elected Justice of the Peace. Reverend Augusta Chapin, who was born and grew up at Eden, gave the address of the day. Said that in December 1842, her parents had left the old home in New York and had been traveling for weeks toward a new home that they were to make in the wilderness. They had been directed to the then famous "Rolfe Settlement", where the pilgrimage was to end. The first school was organized in a log shanty on the grounds where the Rolfe Schoolhouse stood. It was taught by Mrs. Eliza Butler in the summer of 1838.

[Blanche A. Wheeler]



Early Republican Ticket
[date unknown]

Additional Excerpts From The Township Minutes:

April 1836 - first recorded road - Smith Road, W 1/4 sec 28

1838 - Parker, Danforth & Hawley Roads were laid out

1842 - Jurors were selected and divided into two groups - Grand & Petite

1844 - voting took place on the first Monday of September at school district #2, and the first Tuesday at the courthouse. Labors received .63 cents. As a result of a tied vote for an elected position, the decision was decided by lot. Justice of Peace terms were 3 or 4 years, all other terms were 1 year.

1846 - Burying ground in section 24 was to be enclosed by a board fence. Decided to charge \$5 for licenses for tavern and retail establishments. Laid out Chase Road.

1858 - Resolved that hogs, cows & sheep be restrained from running at large in the township. Election hours were 9 to 4.

1859 - Tom Clements challenged for office on the grounds of being colored, took oath as being of Indian descent. Election hours were changed to 9 to 5. Purchased old courthouse, will repair. Intend to fix upstairs for a schoolroom. Rolfe Cemetery to be fenced with oak posts, a gate 8 x 8 and padlocked.

1860 - Granted license to the union circus for \$20. Kirby Cemetery fence - white oak, 4 & 1/2 feet high. Established cemetery in Hubbard district.

1943 - Terms of office became 2 years.

1980 - Terms of office became 4 years.

When the township was organized in 1838 there were many jobs to be done. In addition to the Supervisor, Clerk, and Tax Collector there were three assessors, four Justices of the Peace, three highway commissioners, two constables, two directors of the poor, three inspectors of primary schools, two fence viewers, two pound masters and six highway district overseers. This organizational meeting was adjourned for one year to the schoolhouse in Mason.

[Linda Diamond, Township Treasurer]

MEETING PLACES

Vevay Township was made a separate township and given its present name about the first of March, 1838, by an act of the State Legislature.

In 1838 when the delegates convened to organize the county, they met at the Parker home, as that was the residence nearest the prospective county seat, called the City of Ingham, and located in the woods about a mile and a half north of the Parker farm.

The first township meeting was held April 2, 1838 and at this organizational meeting an election of officers was voted by ballot, after which they "Resolved that the meeting be adjourned for one year to the schoolhouse in the village of Mason". In that same year many roads were surveyed and recorded.

September 25, 1838 - Town Board met at County Registration Office in the village of Mason for the purpose of auditing the accounts. October 2, 1838 - Town Board met to raise a tax of \$25 to defray contingent expenses, one of which was to make a ballot box for November Election at \$1 and the use of A. Blair house on election day, \$1.

April 1, 1839 - Town Meeting held for the purpose of choosing township officers.

From then on the board meetings were held in various homes of township officers, Clerk's office and courthouse in the village of Mason, until 1859, when they were held in the town hall in Mason.

The first town hall was a wooden building on the corner of Hull and Kipp Roads on land bought from Charles J. Rayner et al on July 9, 1890, not sure when it was built but surmise somewhere between 1890 and 1903. It is not known what happened to this building but a new cement block building was built by Charles Merrylees, with suppliers being Dear & Cross Hardware and C.P. Mickelson, Lumber Supplies. This year was around 1913.

This building (when I first started as Township Clerk) had outside toilets and was a one-room hall. There were built-in voting booths in the front with a wooden rail across the front of the hall. There were gates on each end and during an election had gatekeepers. Voters would go in one gate and out the other after voting. Hall was heated by a round oak-type of stove.

In 1952, an addition was built onto the hall; fourteen feet to the north and full length of the building. Addition was to be made into 3 rooms (kitchen, storeroom, and cloakroom, including toilets). Richard Kilburn was the builder. Also, an agreement was signed with the City of Mason for water to be piped into the hall. The approximate cost of the project was \$6,554.

July 5, 1977 - Contract was awarded to Design & Build to construct a new township hall on South Eden Road. The following covers the cost of the hall:

Land	22,534.00
Building	189,916.01
Furniture & Equipment	5,610.14
Total	218,060.15
Amount borrowed	115,000.00
Township Building Fund	103,060.15

The Building Committee was: Frank E. McCalla, Chairman; Floyd H. Darling & Celand Lamphere. The mortgage on the hall was paid off in June of 1982.

The Board of Trustees at that time were: Thomas W. Plumhoff, Supervisor; Blanche A. Wheeler, Clerk; Sarah L. LoVette, Treasurer; John H. Coy & Joseph D. Stid, Trustees.

The office opened on May 1, 1978, Secretary Sandra Smalley was hired on July 12, 1978.

[Blanche A. Wheeler]

VEVAY BEGINNINGS

Vevay was made a separate township and given its name (from Vevay Township, Switzerland County, Indiana) on the first of March 1838, by an act of the State Legislature. Vevay Township lies near the geographic center of Ingham County, being bound on the north by Alaiedon, east by Ingham, south by Leslie and west by Aurelius townships. It includes township 2 north, in range 1 west, the principal meridian of the State, forming its eastern boundary line. Said boundary was surveyed in 1824 by Joseph Wampler, and the northwest and southern boundaries in 1825 by John Mullett. The subdivisions were surveyed by Harvey Parke in 1826. Portions of the township are level; notable in the southern part, and in the east and north along Mud Creek and Sycamore Creek the surface is rolling and hilly. Occasional swamps abound and springs are numerous in most parts of the township. A high gravel ridge (The Hogsback) extends from the northwest to the southeast, near the Sycamore Creek across the township. The improvements are fine and excellent farms are the rule.

The first to settle in the township were members of the Rolfe family. Ira Rolfe was the first farmer, in early 1836. The first township meeting was held April 2, 1838, and an election was held. Elected as Supervisor was Peter Linderman, as Clerk was Anson Jackson, as Collector, Henry A. Hawley.

The Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad ran through the township from north to south and had two stations - one at Mason Centre and one at Eden, established in 1844 and once called Chapin's Station, because of its location near the Chapin homestead. A small post office, store, school, church, blacksmith shop and shoe store were located there. The name Eden was appropriate, however, as the vicinity was one of great beauty and here were found some of the finest farms in the township. The post office was established in 1844, with William Hopkins as the first postmaster.

[Versile (Babs) Babcock]

DID YOU KNOW...

that Vernon Brown, a township resident and former township supervisor, served as Ingham County Treasurer, State Representative, Auditor General, Lt. Governor and was defeated in the Gubernatorial Primary by Kim Zeigler in 1946?

that Ludell Cheney has served as Supervisor, Clerk, Constable, and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission and Board of Review. His service has covered a total of 50 & 1/2 years beginning at the age of 22?

that the Coy family has also held many positions in township government including Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, Trustee, & members of the Board of Appeals, Planning Commission and Board of Canvassers?

that Charles Davis, another former township resident was a delegate to the 1960 Constitutional Convention and served in the House of Representatives?

that the Diamond family has held the following offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Justice of the Peace and Constable over the past 80 years, and that they have also served on the Boards of Appeals, Review and Planning Commission? (The Diamonds are descendants of the first township treasurer, Henry A. Hawley, in 1838)

that Dan Stid, son of Pete and Sara Stid, was named a Rhodes Scholar in 1987?

that other families serving the township for many years are the Sweet/LoVette family, with a total of 45 years and the Jewett family with 42 years?

that Vevay Township has been home to the following outstanding athletes:

Bob Jewett - played football for Michigan State University, playing in the 1955 Rosebowl, and later played professional football for the Chicago Bears?

Denny Stoltz - played football for Michigan State University and went on to coach at Alma, MSU, Bowling Green and is currently coaching at San Diego State?

Jonathan Kosier - holds every golf record at Mason High, was a four-year letterman and captain of the Men's Golf Team his junior & senior years at MSU, and has gone on to play professional golf?

[Linda Diamond]

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS
1838 - 1988

Supervisors

Peter Linderman
1838,42-45,47-48

Charles Gray
1839-40

Wright Horton
1841

George Shafer
1846,49,55,57

Henry Hawley
1850

Anson Jackson
1851

Almon Chapin
1852

Amos Steele
1853

Joseph Huntington
1854

William Horton
1856,60

James Fuller
1858-59

(records missing 1861-1902)

Vernon Brown
1903

John Coy
1904

Garry Sanders
1905-08

J.H. Shafer
1909-10

William Taylor
1911

Lee Lasenby
1912-18

Charles Davis
1919-22

Walter Carven
1923-35

Willis Collar
1936

Wilford Jewett
1937-67

Ludell Cheney
1967-72

William Diamond
1972-76

Thomas Plumhoff
1976-82

William Diamond
5/82-8/82

Jeffrey Oesterle
8/82-

Clerks

Anson Jackson 1838	S.J. Hanna 1912-15
Zaccheus Barnes 1839-40	Cordie Barker 1916-17
George Shafer 1841-42, 45, 50, 52-53	Charles Davis 1918
William Hammond 1843	Leon Crowl 1920-21
Hiram Parker 1844	Earl Otis 1922-23
John Child 1846	Irwin Smith 1924-25
John Longyear 1847-48 (replaced by Peter Sow)	Wilford Jewett 1927-28
Samuel Hammond 1849	Ira Hall 1929-30
Amos Steele 1851	Stanley Holmes 1931-32
William Sweet 1854-55	Gerald Diamond 1933-34
Joseph Oheare 1856	Howard Coy 1935-36
Luther Huntoon 1857-58	Anna Crowl 1937
Charles Rea 1859	Floyd Launstein 1938
David Halstead 1860	Gayle Hall 1939-40
(Records missing 1861-1902)	
L.T. Lasenby 1903-04	Ludell Cheney 1941-43
Lee Smalley 1905-07	Sarah LoVette 1945
Claude Fay 1908-09, 1919	Blanche Wheeler 1947-83
Walter Harkness 1910-11	Susan Kosier 1983-

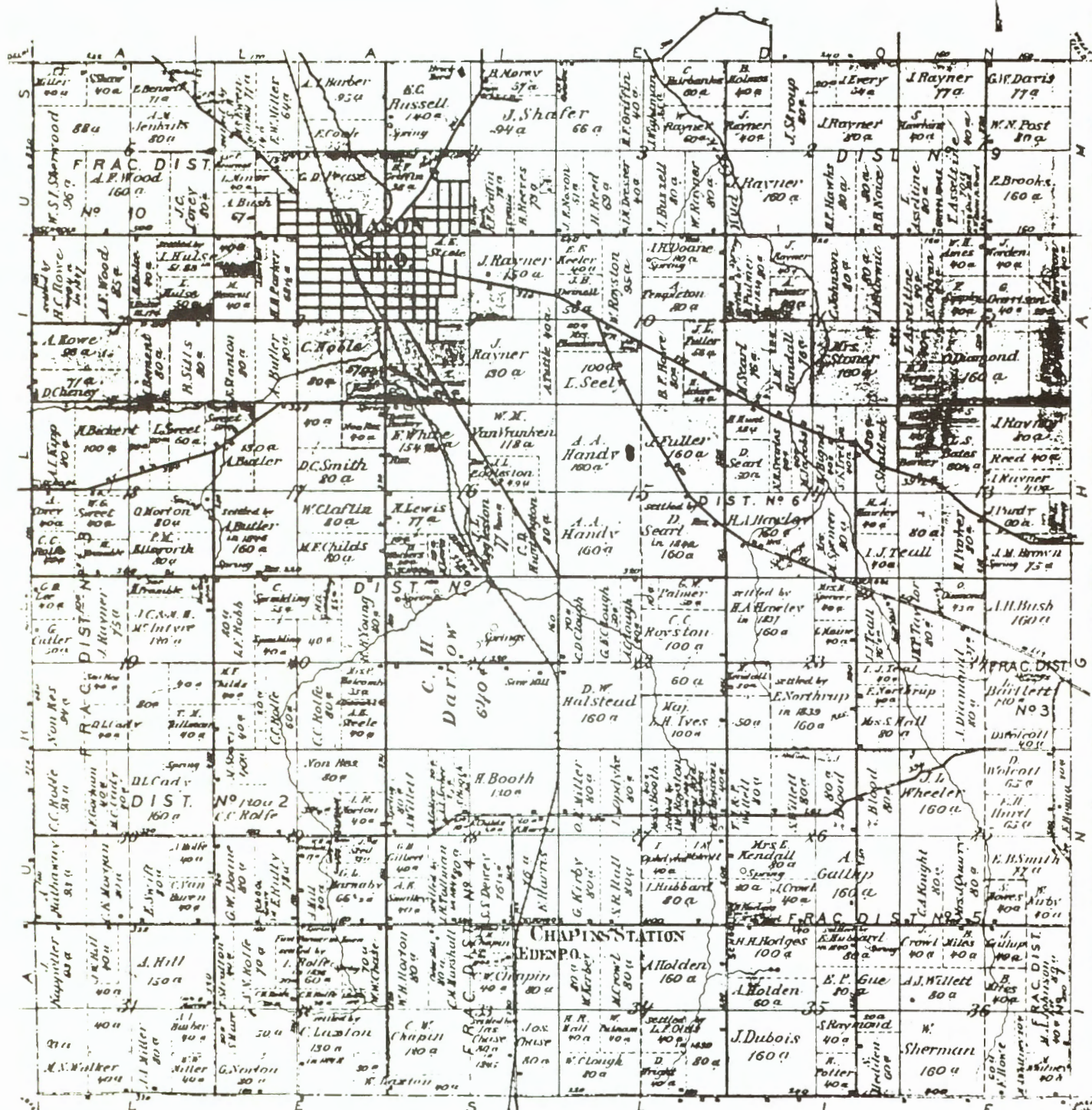
Treasurers

Henry Hawley 1838	Herman Lyon 1903
Peter Linderman 1839	William Doane 1904-05
Freeman Wilson 1840	John McCurdy 1906-07, 1910-11
Hiram Converse 1841-42	Lee Smalley 1908-09, 1916-17
Joseph Hopkins 1843-48	Walter Harkness 1912-13
Benjamin Smith 1844	V.B. Douglas 1914, 1935
James Turner 1845	Cordie Barker 1918-19
Isaac Page 1846	Claud Fay 1920-21
Asa Hill 1847	Leon Crowl 1922-23
Arnold Walker 1849-50	Earl Otis 1924-26
Almon Chapin 1851	Wilford Jewett 1929-30
George Belcher 1852-53	Stanley Holmes 1933-34
George Pease 1854, 60	Floyd Launstein 1937, 39, 40-47
Ira Darling 1855	Irwin Smith 1927-28
James Hulse 1856	Ira Hall 1931-32, 1937
Barney Holmes 1857	Howard Coy 1936
Peter Rose 1858 (replaced by Simon Rolfe)	Sarah LoVette 1947-84
Ariel Olds 1859	Linda Diamond 1984

(Records missing 1861-1902)

[1988]

VIEWWAY



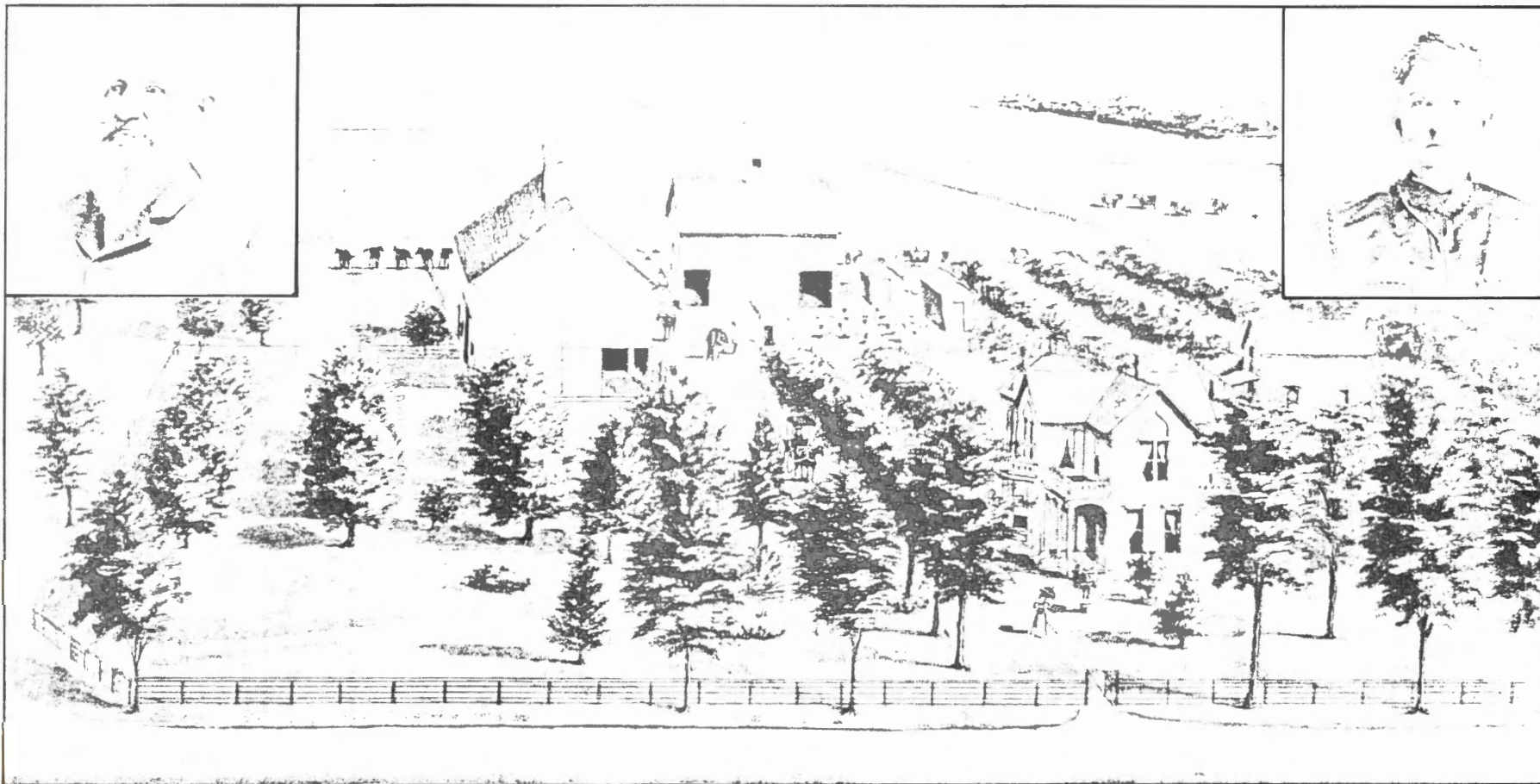
VEVAY in 1874

STATISTICS OF INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, COLLECTED BY THE U. S., FOR THE NINTH CENSUS,
COMPILED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN.

[illegible]

Township 11 North **WENAWATON** Range 1 West

A 1895 Homestead



[19]

ELIJAH BROOKS

RESIDENCE OF ELIJAH BROOKS, SECTION 1, VEVAY TOWNSHIP.

MRS. ELIJAH BROOKS

POPULATION INGHAM COUNTY

1940 - 1980

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980
Alaiedon Township	1132	1486	2070	2487	2845
Aurelius Township	1316	1482	1645	1987	2460
Bunker Hill Township	858	1066	1285	1464	1794
Dansville Village	351	433	453	486	479
Delhi Township	6723	10077	16590	13795	17144
East Lansing	5839	20325	30198	47964	51392
Ingham Township	744	770	889	1012	1495
Lansing City, Pt.	78753	92129	107807	130211	125974
Leroy Township	981	1018	1121	1347	1878
Leslie Township	1281	1543	1807	1718	2110
Locke Township	980	1023	1171	1370	1456
Mason City	2867	3514	4522	5468	6019
Meridian Township	4767	9108	13884	23817	28754
Onondaga Township	1293	1450	1638	1981	2299
Stockbridge Township	763	1044	1363	1336	1701
Stockbridge Village	852	1098	1097	1190	1213
Vevay Township	1035	1114	1404	1916	3113
Webberville Village	508	600	664	1251	1535
Wheatfield Township	821	761	898	1177	1523
White Oak Township	843	948	1000	875	1096
Williamston City	1704	2051	2214	2600	2981
Williamston Township	978	1175	1963	2847	3972
	130,616	172,941	211,296	261,463	275,520

TCRPC
0333-224-88

ROLFE

Community & School

The first settlement in Vevay Township, outside of Mason, was known as the "Rolfe Settlement". It occupied the territory where Barnes and Tuttle Roads now cross and south on Tuttle Road and east on Barnes Road.

In the summer of 1836, three families of Rolfes, (Nathan, Ira and Benjamin) came to Michigan from New York and settled in Vevay Township making the trip by foot from Buffalo to Detroit, then by ox team from Detroit to Saline. It took them five days to go from Detroit to Saline for the road had to be cut through wilderness.

Within a year three other brothers came, Ephraim, Hager and Manasach. All settled in sections 29, 30 and 32, near the brothers who first came. Manasach was a physician and subsequently moved to Eaton Rapids, where he died from the effects of a dissecting wound.

When the Rolfes first came to the township the only improvement was a log house built in a small clearing in Mason. Ira Rolfe built a log house in the Rolfe settlement and left his family in Saline, Washtenaw County, and did not become a permanent settler until 1838. The other brothers settled in the one neighborhood in the midst of a dense forest.

Their cabins were made of log sides with split shakes for the gable ends. The roof was made of peeled bark. The floors were basswood logs split into planks and laid on the ground. They edged them off with an ax-like tool, which made them quite smooth.

The first person to die in the township was Fannie Rolfe, on April 7, 1837. She was buried in her own door yard.

The first school in the township was district number one in Mason in 1837, and Miss Lucy Rolfe was the first teacher. Afterward she married Benjamin Rolfe and they had seven children.

The second school in Vevay Township was district number two, the Rolfe School.

On November 15, 1942, Hiram and Mary Austin deeded a parcel of land to the Rolfe School District, two rods north of the southwest corner of the east half of the east southwest quarter of section 29, township number 2 north range 1 west, according to the United States Survey. Then running six rods east on the north line of the public highway to a stake, then north six rods to a stake thence west six rods to a stake, then south six rods to the beginning, containing 36 square rods of land. The sum paid for the land was \$5. The deed was signed by Justice of Peace Watson Rolfe.

School was first held in a log shanty scarcely higher than the teacher's head. The floor was made of logs split in two with the flat side up. It had one window of glass and a large slick and mud chimney, which let in a goodly supply of light from the top. Miss Oreelia Page was one of the first teachers. Charlotte Chapin also taught there for several terms. On October 30, 1844, she married Carlos Rolfe who died on September 25, 1847, leaving one son who died in childhood. Soon after the death of her husband, Charlotte took up her teaching again and taught twelve consecutive terms in Mason.

Pupils attended the Rolfe School from the Eden district as well as the Walters district, for their districts were not yet organized.

Shortly after 1842, a log school must have been built but no information can be found about it. About 1881, the brick school was built and used until the district consolidated with Mason about 1960.

Some of the teachers who taught in the brick school were: Gertrude Laxton Disenroth, Doris Bailey, Marion Taylor Spink, Mabel Morris, Alice Miller, Blanche Haynes, Mr. Beach, Helen Gage Lynch, Leah Diehl, Ruth Disenroth and Helen Doane Bullen.

The only centennial farm in the district is the Cady Farm.

Daniel Cady moved from Wayne County, Michigan, in 1854, to Vevay Township. He purchased 280 acre in section 30. He added

to the farm until he had 360 acres. He married Harriet Taft in 1845. They had four children, two dying in infancy. The other two, Menzo and Minnie, lived to adulthood. Menzo took over the farm after his father died. He married Helen Miller, who died in 1887, leaving him with four children: Myrtie, who married F.E. Marshall, Floyd, Menzo jr., and Orlando. The latter two were rural mail carriers. A few years later, Menzo married Edith Fanson. To them were born two children, Dorr L. and Margaret. Margaret married Fred Searl and lived in Grand Rapids. Dorr married Mamie Clark and they and their family of five boys, Robert, Claude, Otis, Donald and Bernard, resided on the old farm for several years. Now John Cady, Bernard's son, and family live there. This farm has been in the family for more than 130 years.

Clement Laxton bought one quarter section of land bounded by Barnes and Plains Roads, and Laxton Road between Plains and Barnes Roads in the house with a cupola. His children were: Walter, William, Robert, Jesse, Arthur, Lillian, Mary, Alice and Anna. All of them settled in the nearby community and raised their families.

Some of the other names mentioned who lived in the Rolfe Settlement were: Asa Hill, John Holmes, Orrin Miner, Thomas Tait, Noah Phelps and Walter Sherman, but no information can be found about them.

During the 1920's and 1930's some of the people who resided in the Rolfe district were as follows:

Claude and Pauline Reynolds lived on Plains Road at the end of Laxton Road. They had a large herd of Guernsey and Brown Swiss cows and operated a dairy. Mr. Reynolds was a director of the Rolfe School. They had three boys who attended school there, Clarence, Edgar and Raymond.

The moderator of the school at that time was Eva Wellman. She and her husband, Dan, lived on Tuttle Road just south of Barnes Road.

The treasurer of the district was Benjamin Marshall, who

lived on Barnes Road just east of College Road. The Stanley Hazels, Ira Thorps and Enoch Fields also lived west of Barnes Road.

The Frank Feters family lived south of Barnes Road on Tuttle Road, and their children all went to the Rolfe School, Marie Feters Barton, Elma Feters, Geren, Morella Feters Andrus, Franklin and J.H. Franklin still lives on the family farm and J.H. and Morella still live in the district.

One of the older residents at that time was Wesley Rolfe, who lived on the corner of Barnes and Laxton Roads. He later moved north on Laxton Road.

The Frank Darrow family lived across from the school. They had a family of four girls, Mildred, Isabelle, Dorothy and Florence, who went to the Rolfe School. Mildred and Dorothy became teachers.

Claude and Gladys Laxton lived on Laxton Road south of Barnes Road. Their children were: Earl, Carl and Larsen.

The Rolfe Cemetery stands just east of the old Rolfe School and the markers date back to well over 100 years ago. Many Rolfes are buried there.

The old school has been made into a very attractive home and perhaps voices of children echo through the walls as they did many years ago.

[Helen Bullen]



ROLFE SCHOOL

1928-29

Back Row: Raymond Reynolds, Edgar Reynolds, Helen Doane Bullen, teacher, Carl Laxton, Florence Darrow Harrison, Marie Feters Barton, Shirley Hodwin.
Front Row: J. H. Feters, Elma Feters, Eugene Hodwin, Melvin Miller, Donald Hodwin, Marjory Kirby, Morella Feters.



The Kipp School District was fractional, including areas of western Vevay and eastern Aurelius Townships. The first frame building was built in 1854, on the southwest corner of section 18 in Vevay. Until this time, the Kipp and Walters Districts were together.

When the time came to build the school house the people of that section, and they were few in number, had a bee and cleared the woods from the corner. William Reeves, one of the district residents, and David Hurlbert, from over on Columbia Road, erected a building about 16 x 18 feet in size. There were 6 windows (with 8x10 inch panes) and two doors on the south side, reached by steps made from squared logs. The stove was an old fashioned box stove - a stove set in a box of sand for protection from fire. There were only eight or ten children in the school at the beginning.

There are no records of the district earlier than 1890 to be found, but early residents remembered when the old building, having out-lived its usefulness, was replaced by a new one, about 1887. The original building was moved a few rods west of the school house lot and made into a dwelling house (later used as a chicken house.)

In 1928, new cloakrooms, an entrance hall and a porch were added and all of the windows were placed on the west side, making Kipp a Standard School.

In 1935, the building was further modernized by a cinder block addition housing two toilets, a heating room and a large storage room.

For years the roads in this district were quagmires in the spring until state reward roads were put in from east to west and north to south.

There was one factory in the district, when E.D. Lee raised peppermint on his farm in Aurelius Township for two years and manufactured peppermint oil.

Four generations of the Sweet family taught at and attended the Kipp School. Sarah Rowe Sweet taught her sister, Mable Rowe Seeley. Edgar Sweet also attended and Loren Sweet represented the next generation. Sarah Sweet LoVette attended and 2 of her children were pupils there. The Lyon family was in attendance for three generations, represented by Hattie Sower Lyon, Eugene Lyon and Leigh Herman Lyon.

[Jo Oesterle, Sarah LoVette]

KIPP SCHOOL

1926



Back Row: Eva Cowdry Hancock, teacher, Ola Bates West, Harry Noxon, Phillips. Second Row: Margaret Scutt Whiting, Wayne Miller, Jeanette Freshour Dart, Jean Noxon Bartlett, Kathryn Noxon Haynes, Sarah Sweet LoVette. Third Row: Phillips, Max Miller, Norman Symonds, Joseph Akers, Ernest Sessions, Seldon Stone, James Stone. Fourth Row: Lyle Miller, Edwin Noxon, Phillips, Edgar Sweet. Front Row: Hope Noxon Hoag, Arlene Akers Helbig.

THE SCHOOL

The village of Eden was started in the southern part of Vevay Township (southeast quarter of section 28) about 1844. It had a post office, school, blacksmith shop, store and a church. It was on the stage route from Jackson to Mason. When the railroad was completed to Jackson, Eden grew and was quite a meeting place for settlers of North Leslie and settlers of the southern part of Vevay Township. After the village started it was built up by the Rolfe and Chapin families. George Curry built the first house in Eden and S.S. Dewey built the store.

The Pioneer History of Ingham County quotes, "The first red schoolhouse at Eden was just up the hill from the corners, on the south side of the road, opposite of where Almon Chapin lived". There is no information as to where the schoolhouse was built in the district, only the fact that there was a school in 1847.

Later a white frame schoolhouse was built east of the store and railroad tracks, on the north side of the road. This school was used until about 1923. It was also used as a Sunday school and united with the Hubbard district for Sunday meetings.

At a school meeting in July of 1908, a motion was made and carried to build a porch and steps on the front of the schoolhouse not to exceed \$75 in cost, to be paid for from one mill tax. There was a winter term and a spring term, usually starting in November and ending in March. Pupils between the ages of 5 and 19 attended. Some pupils repeated the eighth grade several times as they were unable to attend the High School at Mason. The school census varied between 30 and 35 pupils.

Of interest was a teacher's term report submitted by F.I. Hodges on March 27, 1885, to the Eden School Board who consisted of A.E. Smalley, director; I.H. Talman, moderator; and B. Barth, assessor. The school term was for five months beginning November 18, 1884 to March 27, 1885. Wage received for the month was \$40. The number of pupils registered during the term was forty five,

average daily attendance was thirty four. There were 36 classes taught. Apparatuses in the school house consisted of a black board, one chair, water pail, ash pail, shovel and broom. The report also said the condition of the schoolhouse was very good, condition of the out buildings and school grounds very poor. New text books, a globe and a dictionary were especially needed for the improvement of the school.

The schoolhouse was cleaned each summer by the Eden Ladies Aid Society or by individuals. The fee paid was usually \$3.

A new brick Standard Schoolhouse was built about 1923. The old frame building was purchased by Charles A. Davis and moved to a location south of the grain elevator where it was used for storage. Mr. Davis also supplied the school with coal and wood. Three and one-half cords of wood could be purchased for \$6.

The Eden Schoolhouse was purchased by Richard and Dorothy Pfluge in 1966 and used as a residence, and in 1988, the building is still used as a residence.

In looking over some old records, the names of the following directors, moderators and treasurers of the Eden School Board were revealed:

1874-1882	J.W. Chaplin, James Chase, S.S. Dewey
1883	George Douglas
1884	Augustus Smalley, I.H. Talman
1900-1909	J.W. Chapin, Albert Clancy, Homer Whitney, C. Potter
1909-1915	Vance Douglas, H.L. Whitney, C.O. Kirby, Lynn Rolfe, C. Potter, Charles Davis
1915	Almon Chapin, Ira Hall, Gayle Hall, Warren Galloway
1935	Russell Crawl, L.D. Morris, Clare Watters

[Fern Smalley Emens]

HUBBARD

Community & School

The first mention of a school house for the Hubbard District is a log building by the willows on the Deacon Ariel Olds Farm, about 1843. This was replaced by a frame building at what is now the corner of Ives and Barnes roads in 1852. Lucy Holden Breed taught there in 1857.

Some of the early settlers were Franklin Olds, Amandon Holden, Ira and Edwin Hubbard, Alfred Gallup, John, Burt and C.C. Royston and the Willett family. John W. Royston came from Senican Falls, New York, with his bride in 1840. The only way they found their way from Jackson was by the blazes on the trees. Charlotte Royston Booth and brother, Ellery Royston, and also Elizabeth Hubbard Hodges were among the first pupils.

Chief Okemos was often a visitor at the Royston home about meal time. He would fill his plate a second time, dump it into his knap-sack and say "take papoose". The next time he came through he would bring them a piece of venison, taking it from the same knap-sack.

The schoolhouse was the community center in early times. In 1853, there is mention of a singing school held there, probably taught by Obid Hubbard. In 1865 a sunday school was organized with Col. L.H. Ives as superintendent. Dr. Walter Root, a Mason physician, gave a lecture there on temperance. Many in the locality signed the "pledge". Spelling bees were commonly held there. The funeral of Lula DeCamp, a long-time resident, was conducted from the schoolhouse.

The nineteenth amendment, which was signed into law in 1920, gave women the right to vote. Women living in the district came to the Hubbard schoolhouse to register. Mrs. Orva Harmon, Mrs. Martin Redman and Mrs. Arthur Scofield served as registrars.

With the advent of the automobile, and the proximity of churches, the school was no longer the center of community activities. However, the Christmas program put on by the pupils

and the picnic at the close of the school year were the main get-togethers for the entire community.

Some of the teachers in the early 1900's were Nellie Harkness Scofield, Mabel Sanders Douglas, Floy Norton, and Mildred Pickett. The list of teachers from 1913 until the consolidation with Mason includes the following: Alice May Bowden Hunt, Florence Brockie, Albert Howery, Marjorie Dolbie Elsworth, Esther Grieves, Zola Chapman Terry, Lenore Douglas Kenworthy, Esther Taylor, Dorothy Harmon Hall, Harold Dakin, Margaret Dowling Dakin, Eva Oesterle Knoch, Lois Johnson Galloway and Anna Ambs Crawl.

The Hubbard School was designated a 5 fractional. Some of the early 1900 officers included Col. L. H. Ives as director and Lucius Olds as treasurer, who served for many years. Frank Mayke and Fred Hodges were also on the board.

At the annual school election in 1916, Clifford Keesler was elected director, Orva Harmon, treasurer and Homer Crow, moderator. Two years later, the Keeslers moved for the district and Arthur Scofield was elected director. Several years later, the Scofields moved to Mason, at which time Howard Fay was elected director, followed by Homer Launstein. Paul Redman served for many years as moderator. Orva Harmon remained treasurer until 1964.

The old frame building was replaced in 1924 by a modern brick building. The old building was sold at auction to Fred Howery for \$130.00. He moved it to his farm at the corner of Ives and Plains roads. It still stands there and is used for a garage.

Sometime prior to 1924, more land had been purchased to comply with state requirements of one acre for school grounds. This was one of the best equipped schools in the township. Due to the lack of funds to hire a well-qualified teacher, the inability to find one to teach all nine grades in a country school, plus the inability to provide education beyond the eighth

grade, the Hubbard school was consolidated with the Mason District in 1964.

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Teachout purchased the property in 1967 and remodeled the building into a very attractive home.

There were many second, third, and even fourth generations who received their introduction to education at the Hubbard School. There are only six former pupils still living in the district.

[Dorothy Harmon Hall]

HUBBARD SCHOOL

1917



Back Row: Phyllis Brockie Chapman, Muriel Barr, Florence Brockie, teacher, Genevieve Willet Ward, Brant, Anna Ambs Crowl, Muriel Potter Howery, Ruth Hodges, Brant. Middle Row: Brant, Irene Potter Aseltine, Addie Koisler, Buelah Willet Swan, Gustina Barr, Dorothy Harman Hall. Front Row: Fred Ambs, Brant, Howard Fay, Casto Devers, Russell Crowl, Paul Marquedant, Frank Willet, Emmet Barker, Wayne Barker, Paul Willet.

HAWLEY

Community & School

THE COMMUNITY

The Hawley community was named after one of the earliest pioneers of Ingham County. Henry A. Hawley was born in Winfield, New York on November 19, 1815.

Henry, with his mother, her family and his brother, Calvin, settled in Vevay Township in November of 1836. (On their trip to Vevay, Henry and Calvin came through Delhi and slept on the side of the Hogsback.) They secured government land in sections 14 & 23 and set up their household goods in a rude shanty, which, for a time, was home for all.

About the 1st of January, 1840, in company with John Williams of Sharon, Washtenaw County, Mr. Hawley commenced building a saw mill, which later was known as the "Hawley Mill". The mill pond is now part of the property purchased by the State of Michigan in 1916, now known as the Michigan State Game Farm. The lumber used in many of the barns in the neighborhood and on the road to Dexter was sawed at this mill. One of the barns was that of Enos Northrup in section 23. The barn is still standing on the farm owned by Ron and Penny Launstein at 1485 Hawley Road.

After 45 years of hard work the shanty gave place to a log house and then to a pleasant farm house where his great, great grand-daughter, Mary Lou French, now lives.

In June, 1841, Mr. Hawley was married to Lucy Olive Hicks, to which union six children were born, namely Olive, Calvin A., Eleanora, Delora, Albert and Anna. Olive was married December 24, 1863, to John L. Diamond. At this time a small cottage from the Hawley farm was moved to the Stid farm where John and Olive began keeping house. John died in 1870, leaving three children, Lottie, Henry, and Willie Diamond.

The Northrup family settled in the area in 1839, and for six generations have contributed through running for office, operating a business, providing music education and professional entertainment.

[Fern Diamond]

THE SCHOOL

In the Hawley school district, which later became district No. 6, Elizabeth Marshall taught in the winter of 1846-1847. The first school in the district was a frame school house, which later was used for a shop on the farm of Adelbert A. Hawley.

The Hawley school district was consolidated with Mason schools and was closed after school was out in May 1959. The school house, located at the corner of Hawley Road and Dexter Trail, was sold and converted into a family dwelling.

In the school year of 1933 & '34, the school building was remodeled and modernized under a federally funded project. Replacing three windows on each side, new windows were installed on the east side for better lighting effect. A basement was constructed with new heating system, new lighting and inside chemical toilets.

School, for the most part of the school year, was held in the parlor at the Crowl residence on Hawley Road.

[Colon Crowl]

HAWLEY SCHOOL

1919



Left to Right: Helen Lamont, (four unknowns), Ford Hawkins, Imogene Gallup, Pearl Crowl, teacher, Harold Shattuck, John Lamont, Louis Stid, Delbert DeGroft.



THE CEMETERY

The Hawley Cemetery, which is located on Dexter Trail, about three miles south and east of Mason in Vevay Township, is one of the "pioneer" burying grounds in Ingham County. Records show burials were made there as early as 1838. Many prominent families from that locality obtained lots.

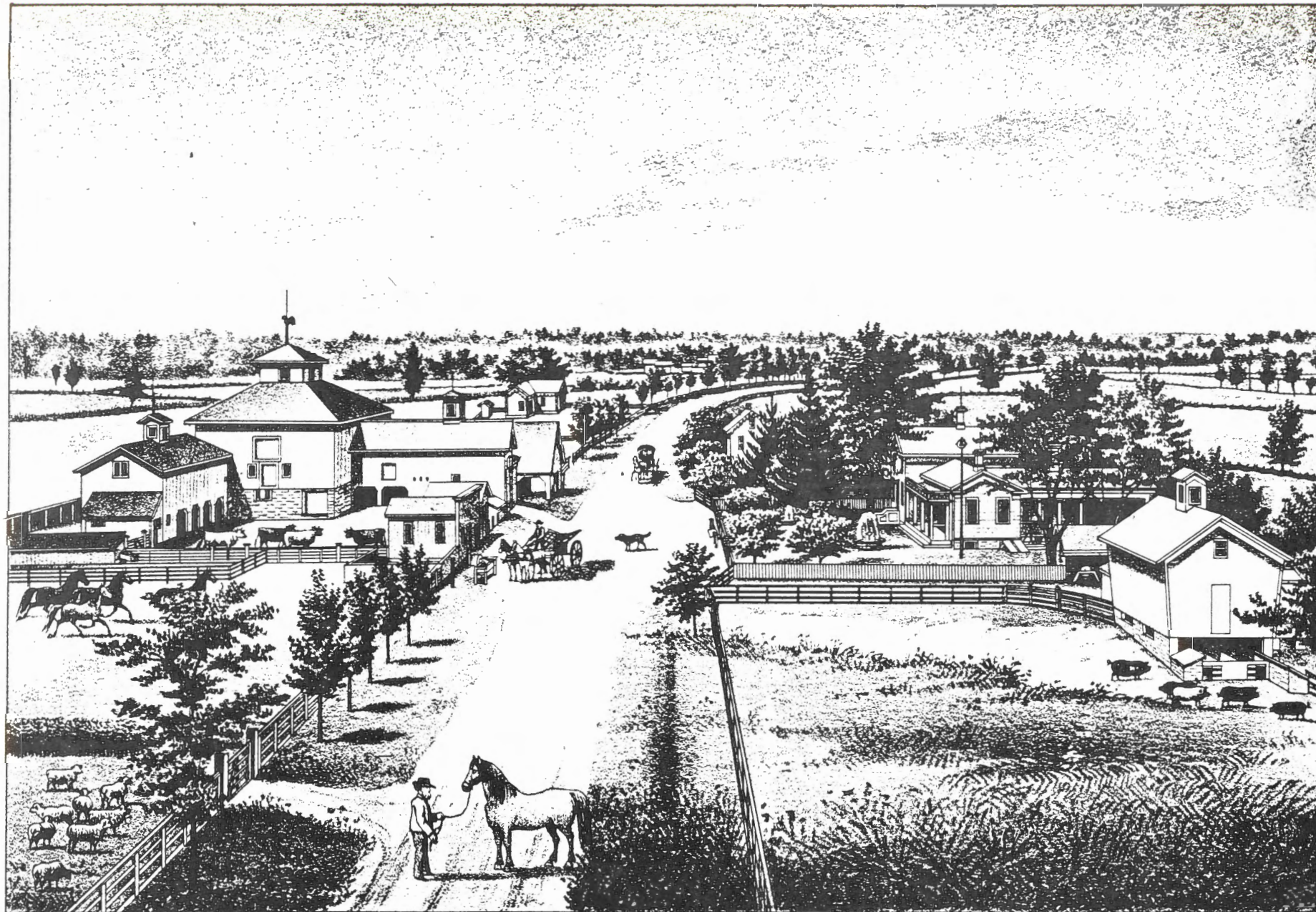
Henry Hawley, for whom the school and cemetery are named, was one of the first pioneers of the county. In the center of the cemetery is a terraced plot with evergreen trees around it with stone steps leading up to the spot. Here the Hawley family, along with the John Diamond family, are buried.

Other prominent pioneers buried there are the Hubbard, Bartlett, Northrup, Bush, Fuller and Seely families; also the Searls, parents of the late Fred Searl, who was a former Ingham County School Commissioner, and the Brown family. Mr. Vernon J. Brown, 1874 - 1964, was born on Diamond Road in Vevay Township. He attended Hawley School. At the age of nineteen he was Vevay Township Clerk. He later became Ingham County Treasurer, a state representative, Auditor General, and Lieutenant Governor. He lost his bid for the governorship in the primary election in 1946.

Hiram Parker, another pioneer who built the first frame house in this area, is also buried there. This house still stands at the corner of Diamond Road and M-36. Mildred Oesterle now lives in this house.

[Colon Crowl]





RESIDENCE OF H.A. HAWLEY, VEVAY Twp INGHAM CO. MICH.

[located on W. Dexter Trail, now occupied by Mary Lou Diamond French, great, great granddaughter of H. Hawley]



Front Row: Leon Crowl, Hugh Brown, Nelson Brown, Maurice Steves, Hallie Harkness, Willie Barker. Second Row: Leonard Whitney, Harold Wiltse, Robert Whitney, Floyd Harkness, Nina Wasper. Back Row: Ray Wiltse, Leo Hedden, Cecil Howery, Alice Howery, Alice Hawley.



EDEN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL



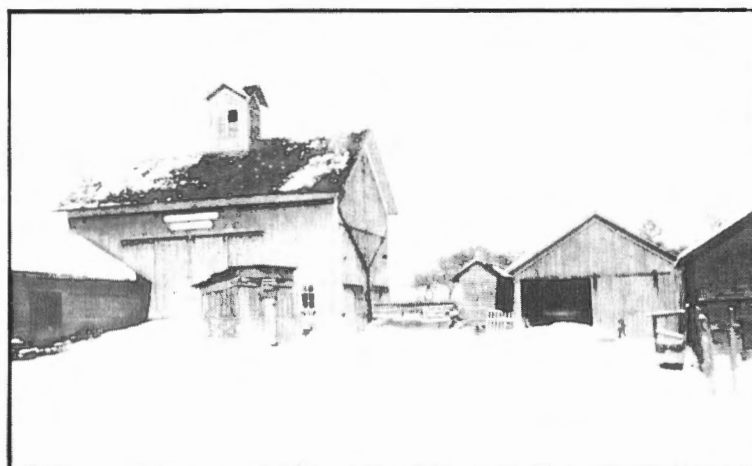
ALLAN FREDERICK HOME
[prior to 1954]



WHERE FRIENDS MEET
LOTTIE B. NORTHRUP
SINCLAIR STATION
1/2 MI. E. OF MASON ON DANVILLE ROAD
SINCLAIR GAS AND OIL
GROCERIES

TOBACCO AND CANDY
CIGARETTES

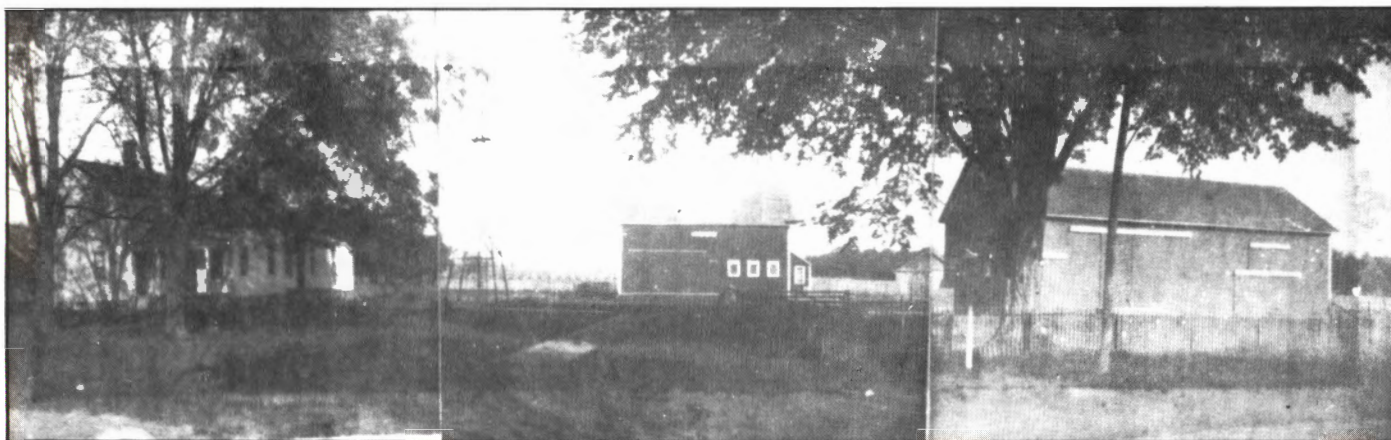
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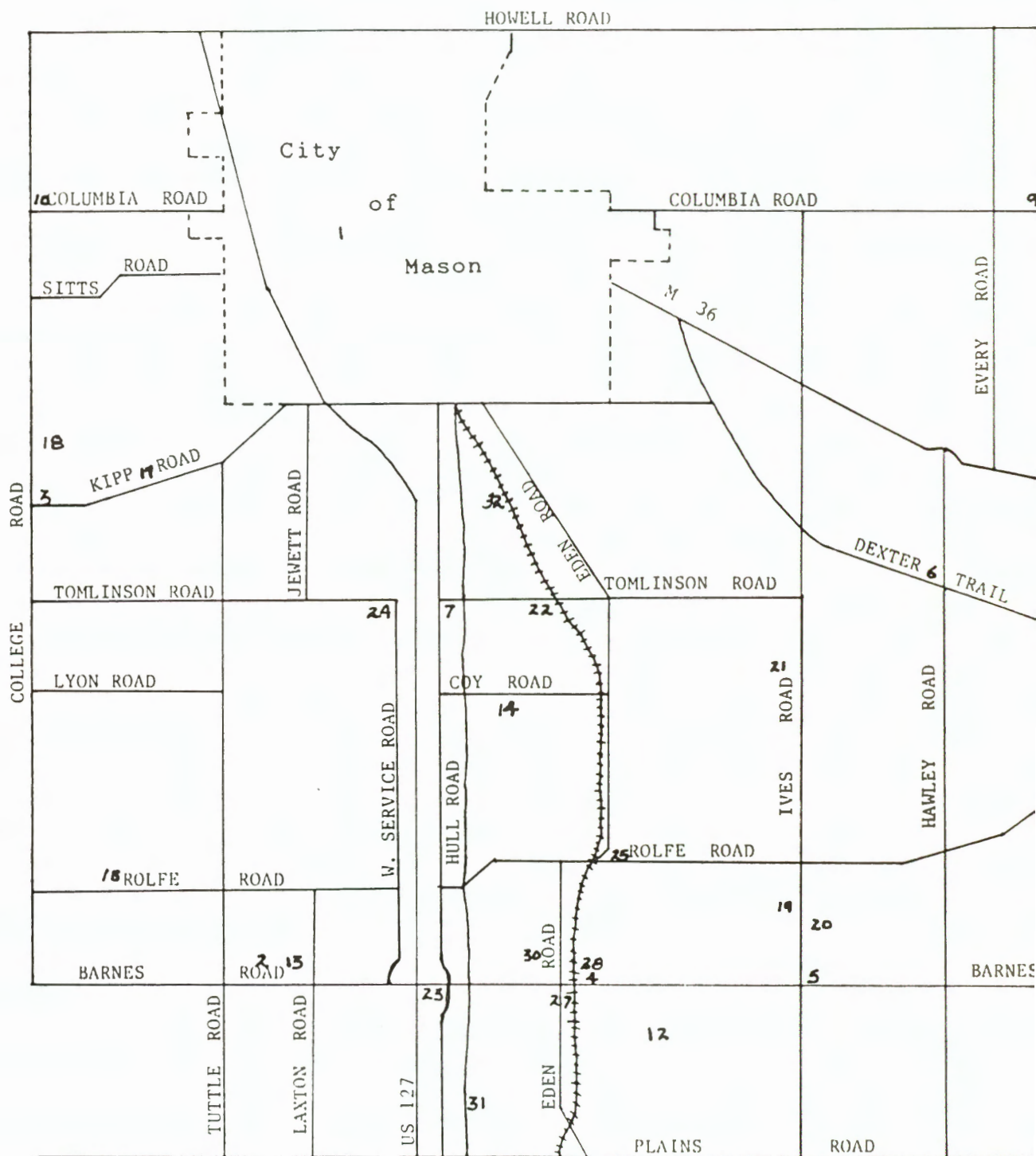
COZY VALLEY

DEC 11, 1903

Former H.I. Northrup farm on
N. side of M-36. House still
standing on S. side & owned by
Paul & Kathy Allaire. Service
station run by Lottie Northrup
in the 1940's. [L.]



LUDELL CHENEY FARM



VEVAY LANDMARKS



SCHOOLS:

- [1] Mason
- [2] Rolfe - 1842
- [3] Kipp - 1854
- [4] Eden - 1847
- [5] Hubbard - 1852
- [6] Hawley - 1846
- [7] Walters - 1854
- [9] Wilson - 1865
- [10] Pink - 1853

CEMETERIES:

- [11] Hawley
- [12] Eden (Kirby)
- [13] Rolfe



CENTENNIAL FARMS:

- [14] Coy
- [15] Cady
- [16] Diamond
- [17] Sweet-LoVette
- [18] Cheney
- [19] Fay
- [20] Olds
- [21] Royston-Lyons



HISTORICAL LANDMARKS:

- [22] Cheese Factory
- [23] Horton's Corners
- [24] Fifield Corners
- [25] Potter's Corners
- [26] Parker's Corners
- [27] Grist Mill
- [28] Apple Dryer
- [29] Original County Seat
- [30] Eden Church
- [31] M.U.R.R. (Interurban)
- [32] Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw R.R.



On March 25, 1854, notice of a meeting for the purpose of organizing a school district was personally served on Isaac T. Bush, John R. Bush, Silas Holcomb, B.B. Holiday and Myron Chalker. On April 1, 1854, with John Haliday as temporary chairman, the organization was completed and Silas Holcomb was elected moderator, Isaac Bush director and Myron Chalker, assessor. Notice was then given that on April 10th, a special meeting would be held "for to locate a sight for a schoolhouse and to raise a tax for to build said schoolhouse".

At this meeting it was decided to buy as near Fifield's corners as possible. They voted that the school should be 22 x 24 feet and that \$180 be raised to build it.

On February 20, 1857, Silas Holcomb was notified by the board of school inspectors that the district was to include section 16 and parts of sections 21, 22, 20, and 27 and he was to notify every taxpayer within these boundaries to be present at a meeting. Their names were as follows: John W. Seely, John Wilcox, M.J. Chalker, John Bush Franklin White, Henry Robson, James Patton and S.A. Holcomb. The meeting was held at the home of John R. Bush and it was voted to establish a site on the corner of SW 1/4 of section 16 owned by J.W. Wilcox. One-fourth acre was purchased for \$25. They voted to raise \$200 to help pay for the land and the buildings, and to raise that amount or more each year until the building was paid for.

On April 27, 1857, District No. 7 entered into a contract with Adeline White, a qualified teacher in the district, to teach three months beginning May 4, 1857, for \$2 a week and she must board herself. This was signed by John Wilcox, director, approved by John Seely and Franklin White.

When the time came for school to begin the building was not finished so a contract was made with J.W. Wilcox for a log house and school was held there that summer. The rent was fifty cents

per week. This took place in 1857. The following is a bill submitted May 1, 1857:

20 1/2 pounds of pipe	\$2.56
one broom	.20
one cup	.10
one pail	.50

	\$3.36

Acc't. I.W. Phelps & Co.

That fall it was voted to tax each scholar \$.75 for support for the coming year. The patron of the school were supposed to furnish one-half cord of good body wood for each scholar for the winter fuel.

The names of D.C. Smith and Joseph Butler were added to the directory.

The amount of \$3 was voted for incidental expenses.

In 1858, it was voted to open the school for religious meetings for all denominations. A librarian was added to the list of officers and it was voted to have nine months of school. Two dollars was raised as contingent fund. R.R. Young was elected director.

In 1861, a motion was made to build a board fence around the yard. This was voted down. That winter term was taught by Miss Antonett Horton at \$2.50 a week. The summer term was taught by Miss Nancy Fuller for \$1.25 a week.

At the annual meeting in 1862, it was voted to build a board fence around the school yard with a gate; also to build steps for the school. This was done by R.V. White for \$33.50.

In 1864, Miss Orvilla White taught for \$2.25 a week and Miss Mary Cornell taught three months for \$2.50 a week.

The school was used through 1927. At that time a new brick school was built directly across the road south of the old school. It was very modern with inside plumbing and windows all on the west side. The director at that time was Herrick Dunsmore. The first teacher in the new school was Adah Furbman.

The old school was bought and made into a residence. It was

afterwards moved a short distance down Hull Road. It is still being used as a home (1988).

The rural districts consolidated with Mason and the brick school was demolished and the children attended public schools about 1960.

Some of the teachers through the years were: Florence Freer, Wynetta Brotherton, Fern Irwin Diamond, Marjorie Dolbee Ellsworth, Mildred Darrow, Evelyn Taylor, Phyllis Byrum and Howard Oesterle.

One of the first settlers of the Walter's community was the Henry Fifield family for which the Fifield Corners was named. This was the corner of Tomlinson Road and U.S. 127.

Jasper Wolcott, a surveyor from Connecticut was surveying farms in this community. He met and married Harriet Sargeant. They settled on the farm which is now Mason Hills Golf Course near where the large elm tree stood, which was a landmark for many years, as well as the highest elevation in the township. Mr. Wolcott said bears often sniffed the blanket curtain of their log cabin doorway at night.

On November 9, 1836, Isaac Nelson Wolcott was born. He was the first white child born in Vevay Township and two days after this on November 11, 1836, Jasper Wolcott, his father, went to sleep never to awaken. His body was buried beneath the landmark elm tree. (The elm tree was taken down when Tomlinson Road was widened and it is believed the remains were moved to Mason.) Jasper Wolcott was the first person to die in the township.

The piece of property owned by the Wolcotts was later bought by Sam and Mary Tomlinson from Canada. They built a pretentious brick house on the property north of Tomlinson Road. There they raised four children, Mary Tomlinson Frederick, Pearl Tomlinson Aseltine, Carolyn Tomlinson Smith, Ann Tomlinson Laxton and Allen Tomlinson. Mary Frederick and son, Allen, lived on the place after her parents died. Allen married Helen Jewell and they raised three girls there, Janet, Elaine and Mary Ann.

To make way for the highway (U.S. 127) the beautiful old brick house was torn down. Eighty acres was sold to Dr. O.H. Freeland, a prominent doctor in Mason, and a golf course was built. It will is a well-kept-up and much-used course. Several people have owned the course through the years, among them Sailes Murdock, Leo Allaire, and Mike Walkington.

At present the golf course has a restaurant and a room for entertaining. Nine more holes have been added to the course across the road.

Across from the golf course to the south was the home of R.R. Young who moved to the district previous to 1858. He had a son, Harvey, who was the first Walters School pupil to graduate from Mason High School. He was a member of the class of 1889. Another son, Earl, graduated from Michigan State College in 1898 and was a professor at Purdue University. Harvey Young, a son of R.R. Young, and his wife, Carrie, was the next to live on this farm. He had four daughters, Laura, Lera, Margaret and Mildred. They all went to the Walters School.

John S. Coy was born May 22, 1885, in Washtenaw County. He married Sarah Warner, who bore him two children, Myrtle, who married Herrick Dunsmore, and Charles. In 1889, he purchased the farm on Coy Road where John Coy now lives. His wife died in 1892. He married Mary Irish a few years later and in 1900 on March 17, a son, Howard, was born. Howard married Edith Hicks. They had two children, Marilyn Coy Murthum and John. John and his wife Patricia remain on the farm today. This is the only centennial farm in the Walters district.

One of our older residents of Vevay died on January 17, 1988, Eugene C. Lyon. He was a prominent farmer and had spent his entire life in Vevay Township. He was born March 31, 1894. On April 2, 1919, he married Alberta Gretton. They moved to the farm on Tuttle Road where Leigh and Agatha Lyon now live. They had five children, Robert, Frances Lyon Salisbury, Franklin, Phyllis Lyon Haight and Leigh. They grew up there and all

attended the Walters School. After the children were grown up Alberta and Eugene moved to the Herman Lyon farm on Tomlinson Road, where Alberta now resides.

Another older resident of our township is Ethel Laxton Woodard. She lives on the corner of Coy and Hull Roads. She was born on June 9, 1896 on the place where she now lives. The house was built in 1905. Her parents were Hattie McGinn Laxton and Walter Laxton. She married Montie Woodard. They had two boys, Lewis and Orville.

Another family who attended the Walters School was the Michael and Ruth Oesterle family, who lived on Tomlinson Road and then moved north of Tomlinson Road on Eden Road. The children were Lawrence, Glenn, Gladys Oesterle Reynolds, Ida Oesterle Benjamin, Howard, Eva Oesterle Knoch, Irma Oesterle Cullen, Lyle and Don. Howard taught in the Walters School. Don and his son Jeff, as well as Glenn and his wife Lucille, still reside in the township. Jeff lives on east Tomlinson Road and is the Supervisor for Vevay Township. Don and his wife Josephine live on Eden Road. They also have a son Steven.

The William H. Taylor family bought the farm an eighth mile east of Tuttle Road on Tomlinson Road in 1906. They called the farm Lone Oak Farm, named for a lone oak tree along the road which still stands today. He married Myrtie Bell. They had five children, Florence, Sidney, Elsie Taylor Hicks, Marion Taylor Spink and Esther. Elsie, Marion and Esther went to the Walters School. All of the girls taught school. Sidney worked for the Detroit Creamery. When prohibition went into effect Stroh Brewery could make no more beer so they manufactured ice cream and Sydney was head of the ice cream department.

Probably the oldest frame house in the district is the one where Helen and Joe Bullen live. In 1844 Alexander (Deacon) Miller came from Ohio with his wife, seven daughters, and one son and settled on section 20 in Vevay Township. They lived in a log cabin until 1847, when the square part of the present house was

constructed of hand-hewed timbers and square nails. There were two brick fireplaces, one in the kitchen and one in the parlor, their backs together so that one chimney did for both. The place where these fireplaces were built can still be seen in the cellar. An iron crane was hung by staples in the one in the kitchen, from which the kettles were suspended over the fire to do the cooking. A row of kettles could hang from hooks along the whole length of the crane. A spider of iron with three legs was placed over the coals on the brick hearth. The baking was done in a tin oven set in front of the fire or in an iron kettle where coals were put under and on top of it. Their primitive kitchen utensils did good work.

Indians often spent the night in this house sleeping in blankets before the fireplace. An Indian settlement was only a mile away. The Miller boy often went hunting with the Indians.

The Miller children went to the Rolfe School because the Walters had no school at that time. Several of the Miller girls taught in the Rolfe School.

When "Deacon" Miller came to Michigan he brought a grain bag full of apple trees cut off near the roots which he set out south of the house. They grew well and the new shoots were carefully guarded. One day a boy came along the road driving an ox team. He needed a whip so he broke off the top of one of the trees. These trees were the first to bear fruit in this part of the country.

Some years after, Mr. Miller sold his farm to Frank Robb. He was the one who planted the maple and pine trees around the house. Mr. Robb sold the place and moved to the farm just south of where Wickes Lumber Company stands now.

In 1899, Wilson (Bruzz) Doane and his wife E. Mae bought the farm. They had one daughter, Helen Doane Bullen, who now lives on the farm. Joe and Helen had one daughter Joellen Bullen Hannold who lives on the southwest corner of the farm. She and her husband, Frank, have one daughter, Machelle.

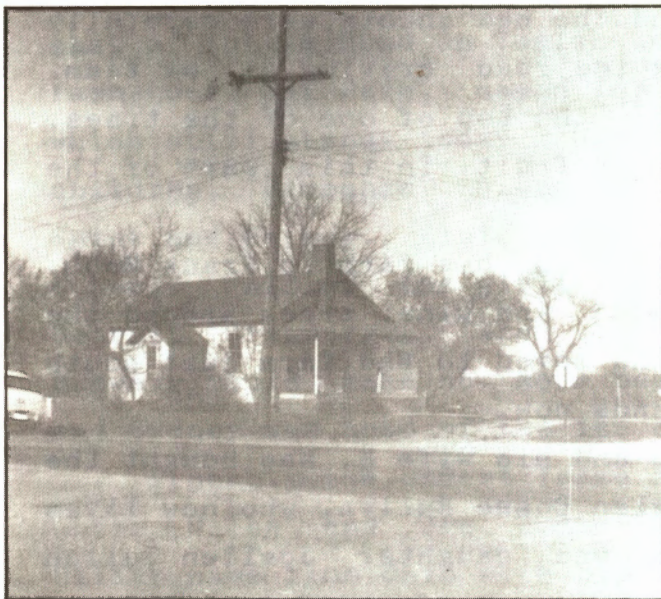
The Walters community has had a very good historian in their midst in Chloe Dell Brown. Through the years she has done much research on many projects. She and her husband, Ellsworth, lived on the Frank Minar farm on Eden Road but have recently moved into Mason.

Prior to the time when U.S.127 was built, the Walters community had a little grocery store on the corner of Tomlinson and the old U.S.27. Carl Miller built a gas station there and later added a grocery store. The community enjoyed this store until it was demolished to make way for the new road.

The district has seen many changes in the first few years. Many new homes have been built and occupied by new faces. Some older people are deceased and others have moved away. The children are picked up by busses and attend Mason Public Schools.

It is very difficult for these children to imagine that once upon a time, a long time ago, there were one room schools like the one just described and that the children from one family all sat in the same room and listened to the same teacher at the same time.

[Helen Bullen]

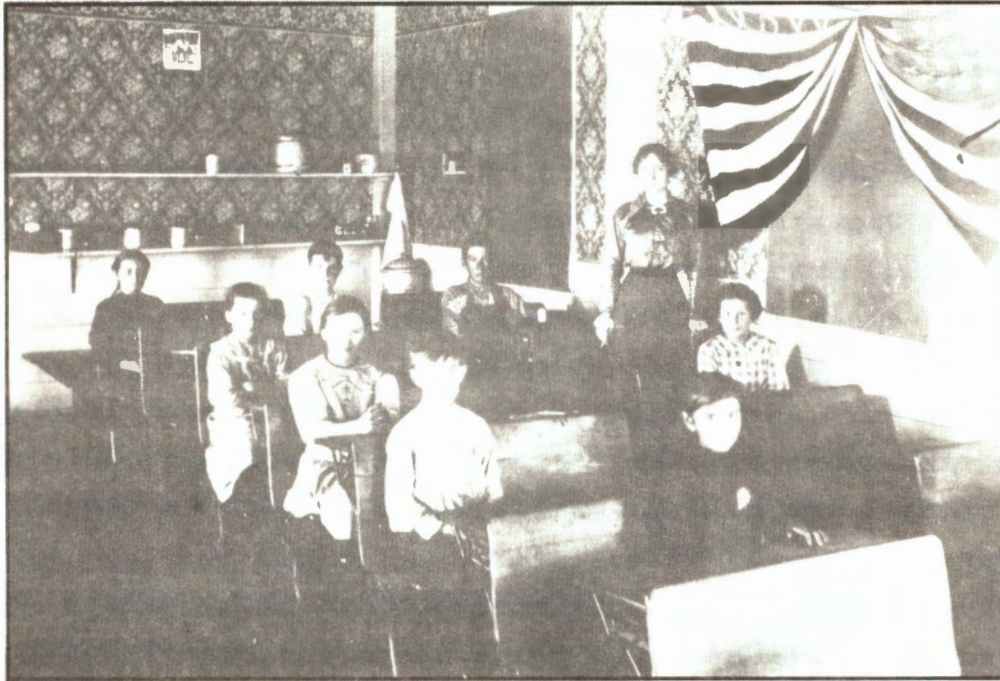


OLD WALTERS SCHOOL

(prior to 1927)



NEW WALTERS SCHOOL



Left Row: Margaret Young, Carl Robb, Lena Harkness, Mae Hinkley, Frank Robb, Mildred Young. Right Row: Jesse Harkness, Florence Freer, Marion Taylor Spink, teacher.



Back Row: Merrilee Dean, Helen Doane Bullen, Elsie VanSteeland, Esther Taylor, Amos VanSteeland, Fern Irwin Diamond, Lawrence Oesterle, Stanley Holmes, Allan Scott Fredrick, Ralph Holmes. Front Row: Gladys Oesterle Reynolds, Fannie Dean, Margaret VanSteeland, Madeline VanSteeland, Lester Miller, Glenn Oesterle, Stuart Holmes, Lawrence Eckert, Samuel Tomlinson.

WILSON

Community & School

The earliest remembrance of white settlers in the area of the Wilson District was a man by the name of Fair. He had a tract of 900 acres and sold it off in smaller tracts to several families, namely Whipple, Brooks, Deyo, Aseltine, Garrison (and perhaps some others.)

Mr. Fair wished to have the county seat located on his tract. A log cabin was built for the purpose of holding court. No sessions were held there but Justice Court was sometimes held at Hiram Parker's house.

The school received its name because F.L. Wilson owned and operated a sawmill near the place where the school was built, and Mr. Wilson was the contractor who built it.

The land was purchased from Luke Aseltine for \$50 by a committee consisting of Elizah Brooks, F.L. Wilson and B.B. Noyes. A bond for \$50, drawing 10% interest, was given Mr. Aseltine as late as January 16, 1872, and was sold to John Rayner on February 13, 1872, and is still in possession of the district.

The first school was taught in the home of B.B. Noyes, for 12 shillings per week by Mrs. Henry Hawks. The Noyes shanty was under a big maple tree. There were several terms of four months each with about 20 children. The school was located on the north side of Columbia Road three and one-half miles east of Mason on the southeast corner of the Aseltine farm.

The first settlers in the district were Mr. & Mrs. L.S. Bates and Mr. & Mrs. B.B. Noyes, who came in 1865. Others who followed were Elijah Brooks, John Diamond, George and Aaron Garrison, Fred Siple, Joseph Worden, Andrew McCormick, John Strape, Peter & Luke Aseltine, Dennis Wright, Christopher Johnson, Wilson Hicks, all of whom took up abode in this wilderness, over 3,000 acres of land with timber so thick that the only way one could look was straight up. (Land in those days

cost \$6.25 per acre. William Barker probably cleared off more land than any other man.)

Wild deer, turkeys, and other animals were plentiful to provide food. One day as B.B. Noyes was looking for cowslip greens, he put his hands on a large tree limb that hung almost to the ground, intending to jump over it, when a big black bear jumped out from beneath it. The bear gave a "sniff and a yell" and loped off to the west.

Mr. John Diamond told of carrying water from a spring a half-mile away in two buckets with a balancing pole across her shoulders. One day Mr. Noyes plowed up some arrow heads and a piece of Indian pottery. A little later he met Chief Okemos who, with his braves, was camped on a knoll in the Rayner Marsh.

Several factories had their day following the saw mill period, namely hoop, cheese, box and washboards (the most interesting made of glass).

The Wilson School finally came to an end when, in the winter of 1936, on a cold blustery night it burned to the ground after a furnace fire had been built to keep the place warm. The school board then put their funds into the Mason School District and the children were bussed into Mason schools.

[Fern Diamond]

WILSON SCHOOL

1928



Left Row: Bernice Timko Thompson, Aseltine, Irene Timko Leyko, Helen Sherwood.
Second Row: (Unknown), Ortha Torbet Gilson, Margaret Sherwood. Third Row: Dick Aseltine, Harlan Collar, Ruth Collar, Marion Timko Smith, Jean Collar, (Unknown).
Right Row: (Unknown), Merle Whipple, (Unknown).

The Pink School District, number 5 fractional (Vevay and Aurelius Township) was organized in 1853. On October 15th a meeting was held at the home of Hiram Bristol to discuss the building of a school house on ground that had been donated by Mr. Bristol, which is now the northeast corner of College and Columbia roads in Vevay Township. Mr. B.P. Fairchild presided over the meeting.

At a subsequent meeting a contract was let to W.F. Near to build a 24 x 30 foot building to be completed by July 1, 1854, at a cost of \$299.95. Sometime later the number of the district, obviously, was changed as it was known later as number 10 fractional.

The first teacher was Emeline Rowe, who received \$10.00 a month and boarded around the district. Thirty-seven pupils came the first term. There were 105 teachers from 1854 until the closing of the school in 1962. Until around 1900, many of the teachers taught from one to three terms, occasionally a year.

Among the first pupils to attend were: G.W. Bristol, B. Sitts, Edwin Hulse, E. Vaughn, E.P. Rowe, John Buck, Dudley Bateman, Thomas Bateman and Emily Near. Four generations of the Rowe family and the Vaughn-Waltz families also attended.

Because of its color, the Pink School was a land-mark. One story has it that insufficient red paint was donated so some white paint was added making the paint pink. Because of its unusual color and notoriety, it was decided to keep it painted pink. There were times when the quality of pink paint was very poor and soon faded to nearly white, therefore it had to be painted again within a couple of years.

The building was remodeled twice. First to bring it up to state requirements for a Standard School, also more land had to be acquired to make an acre of playground.

The second time, in the late 1930's, an addition was made along the north side of the building, constructed as a W.P.A. project and partially funded by the ladies of the Pink Community Club. This was their kitchen, complete with an electric range, cupboards and kitchen utensils. It also provided space to store folding chairs and sawhorses and planks to make tables used at community gatherings. An electric water system was installed. The desks were in rows, bolted on boards that might be moved to one side of the room to make room to accommodate potlucks, often attended by sixty or more people.

In 1915 an organization of the women of the district was planned by Nettie Tanswell and Myra Cheney, daughters of A.F. Wood, one of the early settlers. The organization was called the Pink Community Club - the object to promote school interests and sociability of the community. One of their projects was the planting of some pine trees and shrubs. They also donated a victrola to the school.

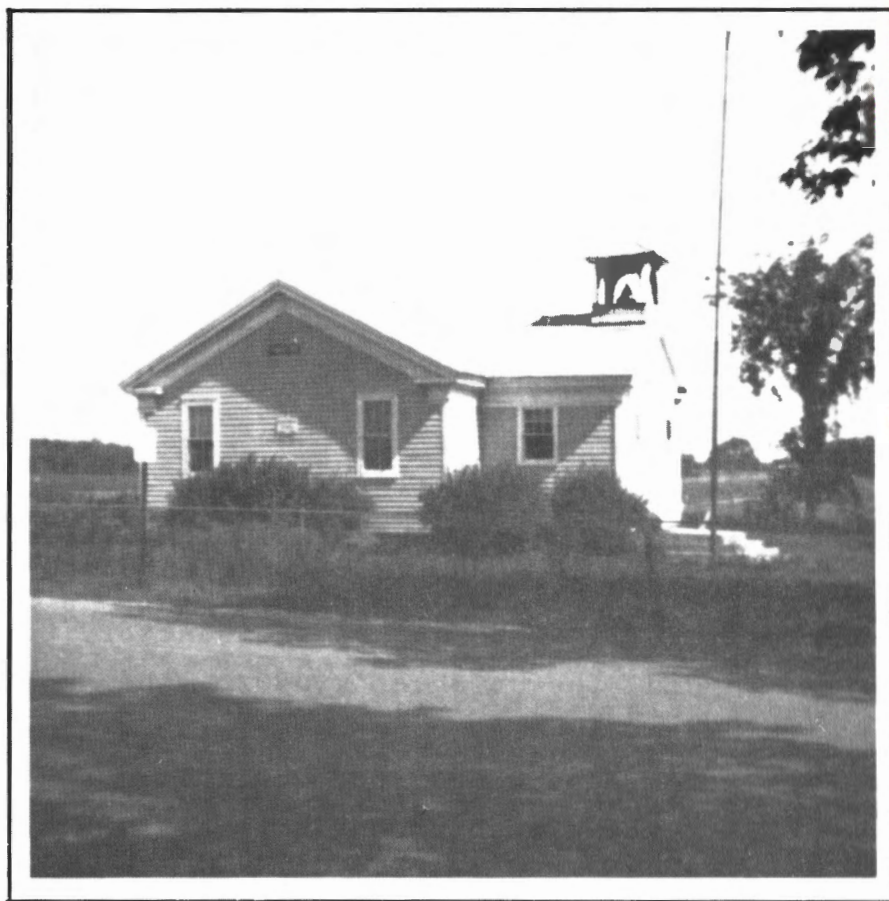
They held community dinners at New Years and July 4th picnics, besides monthly meetings in the homes. Various ways of making money were socials, plays, and premiums at the county fair exhibits. They also paid dues.

Due to the inability to secure satisfactory teachers and educate pupils beyond the eighth grade, the district was consolidated with Mason in 1962. However, for a time beginners and first graders were bussed to the building and taught by Martha Homes. This was discontinued in 1965. The building was sold, however never used.

In 1976 the Ingham County Road Commission requested a portion of the property in order to straighten the curve of west Columbia Road. The additions on the main building were constructed in such a manner they could not be moved with the original building, which was moved to the south side of the 600 block of west Ash Street in Mason.

The building was eventually turned over to the Mason Area Historical Society and, as finances are available, is being restored and will be used as a museum.

[E. Jean Bartlett, Emma Waltz, Dorothy Hall]



PINK SCHOOL

1853-1962

Private Academies

THE FULLER ACADEMY

James Fuller was born in Bristol, Grafton County, New Hampshire, October 8, 1809. In 1856, he settled upon a new and densely wooded farm in Vevay Township. With the exception of winters when he taught school, his whole life was spent farming. He married Mary Page on November 13, 1834, at Elba, Genessee County, New York. They had a family of six sons and five daughters. Four of the family were teachers.

From 1865 to 1875, the oldest daughter, Emma J., taught a small academic school in the Fuller farmhouse known as the Fuller Academy, where the five younger children received most of their education. This school was also attended by pupils from Mason and surrounding country and aimed especially to stimulate potential teachers in a more thorough preparation for a practical education. Joe and Mary Stid now live on the farm at 1633 W. Dexter Trail.

[Colon Crowl]

THE VINING PRIVATE SCHOOL

I would like to tell you of a private school that was located in Vevay Township. Little is known of this school which was under the direction of a Mrs. Vining.

In 1856, my grandfather, William Royston, decided to buy 100 acres of land located in section 10 of Vevay Township. This parcel of land was bounded on the north by what was then called the Brickyard Road and on the west by Dexter Trail and was divided into two parts by the Dansville Road. There was one cleared field on the Brickyard Road, but Grandfather decided to build on Dexter Trail. As the family increased, the old house became too small and it was decided to build the new one facing the Dansville Road. My mother was the last child to be born in the old house. Having no further use for the old house, it was

sold to Mr. and Mrs. Vining, who moved it to the intersection of Dexter Trail and the Dansville Road, on the west side of the corner.

In her home, Mrs. Vining established a school for young men and women who wanted to continue their education. Among the students attending this school were Cora White (mother of Mrs. Blanche Wolcott Moon); Wanda Huntly (Collar) and her brother Willis; Horace and John Dresser; Nettie Vining (Rowe) and Helen Royston (James). Besides the regular students, Mrs. Vining asked three little Roystons, Lizzie, Clarence and Willie to come to school, too. I have a card given to Clarence in 1868, for good conduct.

The Vinings later moved to Montcalm County, settling near Lakeview. The house was then moved to Ives Road and was occupied by Mrs. Bignall and Mrs. Hunt. These two old ladies used to come and help Grandmother with her mending and knitting, always enjoying their pipes after meals. Later the house was moved to the T.E. Royston farm on Dansville Road and became a chicken coop. Such a sad end for a home that had such a history.

[written by Bernice Lou Allen in June of 1960]



City of Ingham

The infant village of Mason was menaced by the activities of Charles Thayer and Company of Ann Arbor. This company of speculators bought up 900 acres of land in sections one and twelve in the northeast part of Vevay Township. This is three miles east of Mason on East Columbia Road. They platted a town site and called it City of Ingham. Mr. Thayer induced the commissioners, who were appointed by the territorial government, to locate the county seat at the village of Ingham. This was a bad blow to Mason.

There was some tall speculating about the City of Ingham property. For example, Thayer and Company sold an undivided one-half of 640 acres to Augustus Garrett for \$30,000 on September 29, 1836. (Someone must have lost a lot of money speculating on the City of Ingham, which passed into the shadows of oblivion.)

In 1838, when the delegates convened to organize the county, they had to meet at the Parker home, as that was the residence nearest to the prospective county seat, located in the woods, about a mile and a half north of the Parker farm. The county seat, itself, was established by surveyors, and a stake driven on what was afterwards known as the Elijah Brooks farm, three and a half miles east of Mason. The stake stood near where the present barn stands, and a log house was erected there and was known as The County House. The one log cabin in the City of Ingham was the only one built there for many years.

Mason men organized themselves and defeated this project and, on March 6, 1840, the seat of justice was moved to the village of Mason, where it has since remained.

[Versile (Babs) Babcock]

Village of Eden

Soon after Michigan became a state, a stagecoach stop at Horton's Corners (intersection of Barnes & Hull Roads) brought the mail to surrounding settlers and provided for outgoing mail. Harrison Horton was postmaster. The stagecoach route was from Lansing to Jackson.

The coming of the Michigan Central Railroad in 1865 was the beginning of the building of Eden. This little settlement was first known as Vevay, then as Chapin's Station. Finally for the beautiful trees and landscape the name was changed to Eden.

George Curry's was the first house and a blacksmith shop was the first activity in Eden. Later a store was built on the corner facing south. The first post office was established in the Dewey Store. William Hopkins, the first postmaster, was followed by Almon Chapin, who held the job until S.S. Dewey became postmaster in his own store. The store later was burned to the ground, then rebuilt again. In 1871, after the long drought of summer and fall, the forests from Leslie to Eden burned.

In 1877, George Douglas moved his family from Bunker Hill to Eden and immediately began building the first elevator - at that time the village consisted of one sawmill, one cider mill, two woodworking shops, the store and post office, a blacksmith shop and 12 houses.

Soon after the railroad came through a large building was constructed on the west side of the tracks for use as a warehouse. Some years later the building was moved to just east of the tracks on the north side of the road. Hattie Sharp, a horse doctor, bought the building, remodeled it and opened it as a boarding house and bar. In 1878, George Douglas purchased this hotel and moved his family into it. He continued to run the elevator and his wife, Mary Douglas, took over the hotel business, she discontinued the bar, but took in boarders and served meals for many years.

Seeger Dewey added an apple dryer to his cider mill and at peak season as many 12 new people were hired. Apple driers became a thriving business and for a time the driers employed around fifty people.

The elevator was later sold to Roland Fay, then to Homer Whitney, who sold it to Charles Davis, who, in turn, served the farmers for miles around for over forty years. After Mr. Davis's death, Warren Galloway took over.

George Smith arrived from New York state to become station agent; he appealed to the railroad officials and because of his efforts a useful depot was built just north of the elevator. He later secured land north from the depot to the store and gradually developed a beautiful little park that he faithfully cared for. In early 1920's, a fire again raged and the little depot was no more.

The Chapin farm became well known because J.W. Chapin developed the largest sugarbush in the state of Michigan. Mr. Chapin tapped 2,200 trees every season producing 6,000 to 9,000 pounds of syrup and sugar each year - the sugar orchard covered 80 acres. After Mr. Chapin's death, Mrs Chapin & her son found the farm land all they could manage; when the fuel shortage struck the county in 1918, the City of Lansing bought the wood lot, including the sugarbush, to supply the city's needed fuel.

Much of the material for this history was from an account prepared by Vance Douglas for delivery at a meeting of the Ingham County Historical Society. Mr. Douglas died at his home in Eden in November 1961, at the age of eighty six years. He purchased the Eden Store in 1922 and operated it until 1948; he was postmaster for fifteen years during this time period.

For many years after that, Verna Rodgers served as postmistress. She and her husband, Cliff, were the last owners of the store. The post office was later closed and the store on the corner was burned by the Mason Fire Department, leaving a quiet little village with a long history.

[Chloe Dell Brown]



EDEN STATION



EDEN STORE



1948 NEW EDEN SCHOOL

[about 1928]



OLD EDEN SCHOOL

Back Row: Helen Brown, Anson Foote, Pearl Vicary Crowl, teacher, James Chase, Carol Foote, Mia Buckingham. Middle Row: Alice Davis, Mabel Foote, Ronald Smalley, Sammy Lehman, Lenore Douglas. Front Row: Jay Foote, Charles Davis, Fern Smalley, Rosalind Baker, Thelma DeWitt, Fred Brown.



THE CHAPIN FAMILY

The Chapin family originated in Chicopee, Massachusetts, when Deacon Samuel Chapin, with his eight sons, settled there in the middle of the 17th century.

Levi Chapin, the father of Deacon, lived an active life. He built the first cotton factory in Chicopee in 1813, and built the upper ten locks on the Blackstone Canal between Worcester, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island.

In the fall of 1844, he settled on the farm in Vevay. Almon Morris Chapin, the eldest son of Levi, was born in Chicopee in 1810. He graduated from the Onondaga Seminary and Skaneateles Seminary and later studied medicine.

In July, 1835, he married Jane Pease of Livonia, New York, and in December he came to Michigan and settled on the farm in Vevay Township.

He sent his tools and goods by water to Detroit while his wife and four children, his brother Levi, Jr., and sister Charlotte (later Mrs. Carlos Rolfe) came in a covered wagon, which was equipped with both wheels and runners, as either might be needed on the trip.

They came through Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, Toledo, Blissfield, Adrian and Jackson to the Rolfe settlement. They stayed with Ira Rolfe the first night, then moved into an empty log cabin. They had just settled in and built a fire when the top logs slid off and the roof fell in.

The neighbors rallied and helped repair the house and had a new roof on in two days. After Charlotte's husband died, she later became the wife of Henry Hawley.

When the capitol was located in Lansing, Mr. Chapin transformed his house into a hotel, where he and his wife welcomed many a weary traveler who traveled the almost impassable road to Lansing.

The Chapin farm became well-known throughout the country

It is said that the Indians made pilgrimages to this part of the county every spring to harvest the maple sap. Their crude methods resulted in syrup that was black and full of leaves and twigs.

After his death, Mrs. Chapin and son remained on the farm, and in 1918, the City of Lansing bought the woodlot, including the sugarbush, to supply its municipal wood yard, and this wonderful landmark went up in smoke.

[illegible]

1853

For 69 of his 73 years, my grandfather lived on his beloved family farm on Barnes Road at the top of the hill east of Eden. He died there in the yard in 1970. Grandpa had many memories of his youth: family, the Hubbard School, Eden Community, walking the railroad tracks from Eden to attend Mason High School, and in particular the death of Julius (J.W.) Chapin.

On the morning of June 20, 1914, as a young man of 18, grandpa was helping with the haying at the Chapin farm when one of two hay forks being drawn up and swung to the farther side of the mow, unaccountably became detached. Falling, it pierced the left breast of 66 year old Julius Chapin, who was assisting in the mow unloading hay. Mr. Chapin placed his hand over the gaping wound and soon collapsed. Doctors were summoned, but he lived only fifteen or twenty minutes and never spoke. He died in grandpa's arms.

According to the account published in both the Ingham County News and the Ingham County Democrat, " No such shock had ever come to the community of Eden. The social prominence of the family, enjoying a wide circle of acquaintance combined to make his sudden taking of a most distressing calamity. J.W Chapin was born in the home where practically his entire life had been spent, and having won by the uprightness of his life the respect and good will of all who enjoyed his acquaintance; his death is felt to be impairable loss to the community. His business interests were greater than any other man in the township, employing two or three times the help. Aside from his kin there were no more sincere mourners than the men and their families to whom he has given employment for years. Mr. Chapin had no time for bickerings, he understood his help, they understood him and friction was reduced to the lowest decimal on the Chapin farm. Mr. Chapin was a man of strong convictions of right and wrong; and lived up to his convictions. When he had given his word, none thought to question. April 6, 1882, Mr. Chapin was united

in marriage to Miss Carrie Lyon. To them have been born three sons and three daughters, all grown to manhood and womanhood. All were present at the funeral service. Of the family of eleven children born to A.M. Chapin, father of J.W. Chapin, but one brother, the youngest, M.W. Chapin, of Toldeo, Ohio, survives him, who with his wife are at the old home. The funeral obsequies were held at the family residence at Eden, Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock conducted by Rev. F.C. Aldinger, of Lansing. Mrs. Edna Ives gave a beautiful tribute to the memory of her deceased friend, Judge G. W. Bristol, Frank Seely and Col. Ives, all members of the Ingham County Farmers Club, the only organization to which Mr. Chapin ever belonged, each in turn bore testimony of the worth, integrity and unblemished character of the deceased. Each had known him well for nearly half a century and spoke as a friend of a friend. The attendance was general, the gathering one of the largest in the record of funerals in the community. The following old neighbors served as bearers: J.M. Collier, H.B. Willett, C.O. Kirby, Edson Rolfe, Robert Laxton, Wm. Laxton."

[Susan Kosier]

Augusta M. Chapin came to Michigan with her parents from New York State. She spent her childhood in the little hamlet of Eden on the Chapin homestead.

She was born in Livingston County, New York, July 16, 1836, died in New York City, June 30, 1905, and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Mason.

She attended Olivet College and the University of Michigan.

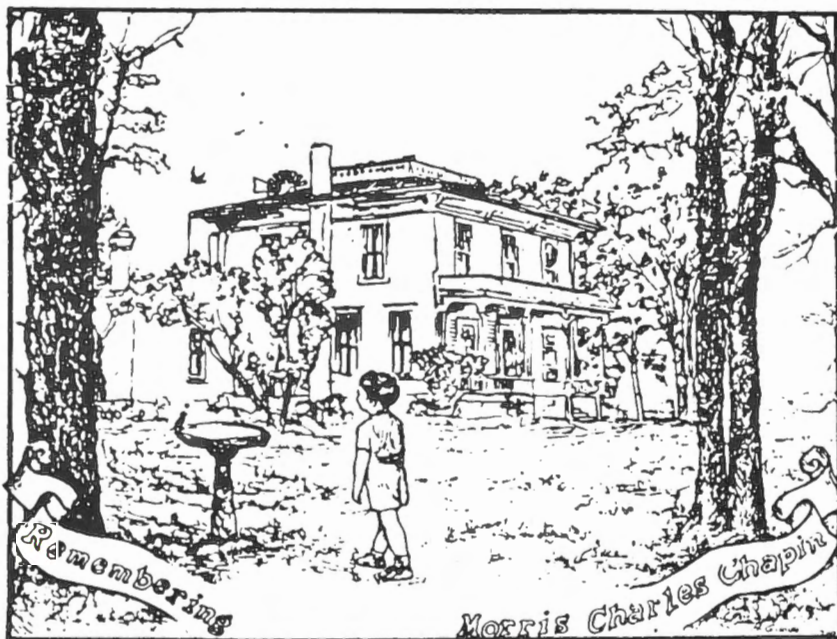
She began preaching in 1859, was a minister of the Universalist Church in 1861, and ordained in Lansing in 1863.

In recognition of her work, Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois, in June 1893, conferred upon her the degree of Doctor of Divinity. She was the first woman in the world to receive this title.

[Chloe Delle Brown]



CHAPIN HOMESTEAD



[A Memorial found in the Chapin home.]

Eden Church

In the late 1800's, Eden was not a nice place to live. People had no faith or pride. Violence was frequent and the general appearance of homes, businesses and the community as a whole was unkempt and shabby. Into this community came the Smiths, to manage the railroad station. Their outlook was completely opposite, being people of deep religious conviction.

Within a few years, a Sunday School was started. People began to improve the appearance of their property. Prayer meetings and church services were held in the school. In 1893, a group of men met for prayer and voted to build a church. Plans were made and gradually money was given to build. In 1900, the church, built by Thomas McLatchie, stone mason and James A. Sherwood, carpenter, was dedicated as the Eden Methodist Church on June 6th. It was an attractive, white-spired building and had a positive inspirational effect upon the community.

The ladies of the community had organized a Ladies Aid in 1891, and this continued for many years - becoming a community gathering during the winter months, as the men joined them for food, fellowship and community service.

Gradually over the 1930's and early 1940's the attendance decreased, partly due to the automobile. In 1943, the trustees of the Eden Methodist Church began a period of transition to the United Brethren in Christ denomination. Charles E. Baum was the first pastor, working through the circuit with the Housel Church and pastoring both churches. In 1945, Rev. John A. Lippincott became pastor and, in 1946, Eden and Housel were separated. Interest was revived and, with many activities, the church began to grow. Rev. Robert Gibbs and Rev. Edward Gamble served until 1953. Each brought something special to the Eden Church.

In 1953, Herbert K. Cherry was appointed pastor. He was fresh from college, a bachelor, and became very involved in young people's activities. During his tenure a house was relocated beside the church and redecorated to make a parsonage.

Attendance increased. In 1960 he was called to do extension work and Milan Maybee became the pastor until 1972. He brought his abilities as a ventriloquist and a chalk artist to aid his pastoral duties. During this period a building program, which encompassed a new sanctuary with fellowship area and educational space, was instituted and completed in a dedication service held on September 24, 1967. The original church was still used as a chapel and for Sunday School classes.

In 1972, Rev. Ernest O. Burk was appointed to serve at Eden. Attendance continued to increase, reaching a peak of 331. Rooms became crowded and the decision was made to build another new sanctuary and convert the then sanctuary into a fellowship hall. Bonds were sold and the building program began in 1978. Building costs soared between 1977 and 1980, making it necessary to raise funds through gifts and memorials for completion of nursery, bathrooms, carpet, lights and pews. Dedication was April 27, 1980.

In 1979, Rev. James Timmer was appointed at Eden and the Board of Elders was instituted to care for special needs of the church.

From 1982 to 1986, Rev. Michael Stambaugh served as pastor/teacher to the Eden congregation. During this time the G.R.A.D.E. Program - meaning Growth Resulting After Discipleship and Evangilism was started.

In 1986, Rev. Stambaugh was replaced by Dr. Harold Cherry. The Grade Program has continued to grow, with people renewing commitments each year. In the past three years a new pastor's study, secretary's office, library and storage cabinets have been completed with work continuing to enlarge the nursery and redecorate Sunday School rooms. Plans are in the making for an addition to the parking lot and a new parsonage.

[Elaine Martin]

The Ingham County Fair

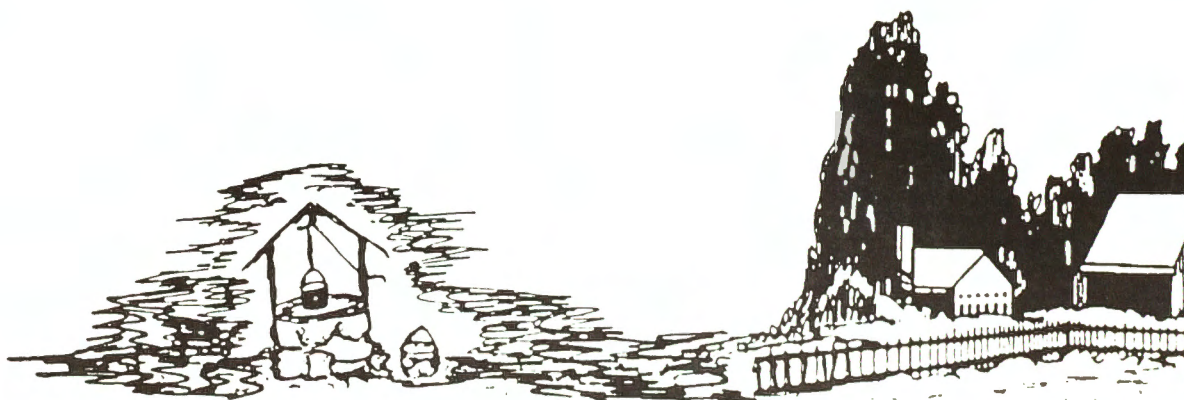
The Ingham County Agricultural Society was organized in 1854. The first purchase of land for fair grounds was by deed, from Jobez Wightman and wife, on May 13, 1856. The land, a little over four acres, was located on the southwest quarter of section 9, Vevay Township. It was too small for this purpose but was fitted with a race track and used for fairs until 1871.

In January of 1871, eighteen acres of land was purchased from Charles Noble and others. The cost was \$400. This land was located in the southeast corner of section 8, Vevay Township, within the corporate limits of the City of Mason. Fairs were held at these two locations until the 1890's, when there seemed to be a lack of interest in fairs.

L.C. Webb acquired title to the land of the fairgrounds and maintained the race track with barns and grandstand. It was called Quickstep Park. In 1913, a cyclone did much damage to the barns, but they were rebuilt by Mr. Webb and races continued to be held. Later he sold the land for farming.

In 1930, the Ingham County Road Commission purchased land, a part of the old Rayner farm on east Ash Street, to eventually be used for the County Fairgrounds, a county park and a jail farm. The 1936 premium book stated that "This year the Ingham County Fair to be held on it's new grounds". This location is still in use.

[Chloe Delle Brown]



State Game Farm

The Michigan State Game Farm, located about 3 miles southeast of Mason, on Dexter Trail in Vevay Township, was purchased in 1916. In 1917, a program was developed to introduce pheasant hunting to Michigan. In 1918, the first birds were liberated and, in 1925, the first hunting season was opened. Seventy thousand birds were taken that season. The year of 1944 was the peak when 1,500,000 birds were shot.

In the early years, Mr. Donald Lamont, manager of the game farm, would go around the neighborhood buying setting hens from neighbors. Eggs were taken from the hen pheasants. The setting hens would hatch and raise the baby chicks.

In the 1920's and 30's, there was a small park and zoo where many visitors would come for picnics and to see the deer, bears, coyotes, fox, badgers and other small animals and birds.

For three or four decades pheasant hunting was very popular in Michigan but, in the 1960's, the population began to decrease significantly.

In 1983, it was decided to experiment with another breed of pheasant. Eggs were purchased from the Sichuan Province of China and shipped by air to Michigan. Although still in the experimental stages, directors of the program are optimistic about bringing good pheasant hunting back to Michigan.

[Colon Crowl]



Cheese Factory

A Mr. Franklin (Frank) White, son a pioneer Emmons White (a carpenter by trade, who built the first county offices in 1840 as the cost of \$331) was also a pioneer in the dairy industry of Ingham County. About 1870, he organized a cheese company on the banks of the Sycamore Creek, east of the old Vevay Township Hall at Kipp and Hull Roads. He was a farmer and he mortgaged his farm to set the business going. The building was located, in 1871, on the south side of Kipp Road, some 20 rods west of the railroad tracks.

Many old people can remember the long red frame building. Mr. White imported an expert cheese maker from the East to teach him the art of cheese making. Holstein cows were his hobby and for years an average of 40 were owned, milked and pastured on his farm. The Cheese Factory became famous and had a substantial rating on Bradstreets as one of the thriving businesses of this region. This enterprise was active for ten years or more. At the turn of the century, the stout old building was still standing; it was later used as a residence.

[Versile (Babs) Babcock]



The Hogsback (Esker)

The esker in Vevay Township is part of the longest esker in the United States.

The early settlers were unaware of the valuable material hidden in the glacial ridge, and for thirty years after first settlements were made, the pioneers expended much time, energy and money building corduroy and plank roads, while first class road-making material lay at their very door.

In 1866, when the railroad was built through this section, people realized the wealth of material for their use. In 1878, when L.F. Robb bought his farm two miles south of Mason, he found Michigan Central Railroad had leased three acres where it obtained gravel to use for ballast in the railroad roadbed. In 1882, Mr. Robb opened a gravel bed on his farm and operated it for three years.

In 1886, Peter Malcom bought thirteen acres of gravel land from Mr. Robb, then continued to add to this until he owned 70 acres. He named it "Kilwining". For 30 years the output was enormous.

When Mr. Malcom first bought his land in section 16, Vevay Township, he ran a stone crusher; farmers found good market for stones from their land. After crushing the stones they were shipped out, same as gravel.

When the matter of good roads first came up in Ingham County, the State Highway Commissioner was present at a meeting of the Ingham County Board of Supervisors, urging the need of good roads being built before the county supply was exhausted. He told of his surprise when, after examining a piece of model road in northern Michigan, he was told the gravel came from the gravel beds in Vevay Township, Ingham County.

[Chloe Delle Brown]

ANECDOTES

One cold winter day, Johnny Okemos, the Indian from Okemos, knocked on my Grandmother Royston's kitchen door. She went to the door. Upon entering, he took a chair, placed it by the oven, opened the oven door, and put his feet in the oven. My grandmother lived on the corner of M-36 and Dexter Trail.

[Helen Bullen]



When I was a little girl I had certain things to do before I went to school; some I didn't like doing and "forgot", but my mother had a way of overcoming those things, so I remembered. One was hanging up my nightgown. Too much bother, so I would leave it where it dropped. She got tired of telling me and picking it up. So, one morning, she watched until I got almost half-way to school and I heard her yell really loud. I thought something terrible must have happened, so I ran all the way back to see what awful thing had happened. When I rushed in and asked, she pointed to my nightgown and said, "Ethel, you forgot to hang up your nightgown." I hung it up and never forgot again. Wasn't that a nice way to cure my bad habit?

[Ethel Woodard]



We used to have so many tramps going south on the road out of Mason and one particular tramp insisted on having food. He demanded food and my mother said she had nothing. He started to strike her. She grabbed the tea kettle, which was filled with boiling water from the stove, and told him to get going or she

would scald him. She was such a mild, quiet person that I never forgot this incident.

[Ethel Woodard]



Chief Johnny Okemos, chief of the mighty Ottawas and nephew of Chief Pontiac, came to camp on the side yard at my grandparents, the Loren and Edgar Sweets. After starting his fire and hanging his kettle over it, he announced he would make flint soup and proceeded to toss the flint into the water in the kettle. Soon a knock came on the back door. When Grandmother answered the door, he asked to borrow some salt pork, saying it would very much improve his flint soup. Grandmother gave him some and he left to put it in the kettle. In a short time he came back asking for potatoes. Again she gave him some. There followed several trips and requests for vegetables for his soup. As a result, his flint soup became a very tasty meal.

[Sarah Sweet LoVette]



In the early days, all butchering of livestock for meat was done on the farm with help from the neighbors. A neighbor, Comstock by name, lived on the southeast corner of the Sweet Farm, which is now Tuttle Road. He was helping this day, and not having meat to butcher of his own, he wanted to bet my grandfather that he could carry a quarter of a beef cross-lots, getting over a rail fence and on to his home without laying it down. Grandfather told him the quarter of beef would be his if he could do as he had bet. He did the deed and grandfather lived up to his end of the deal.

[Sarah Sweet LoVette]

In the spring of the year there were always were baby pigs, lambs, and even chicks and turkeys that needed extra help and attention at the time they were born. They would be brought into the kitchen and wrapped in a towel, given some "Pain King", and put in the oven of the big cook stove to warm them up. The door was always left open. "Pain King" was a patent medicine bought from a peddler who traveled through the county door to door. It was a medicine for humans as well as little animals and chicks.

[Marian Taylor Spink]



Old-Fashioned Cure-all Cough Remedy

1 C. whiskey
1/2 C. olive oil
1/2 C. honey

Croup Cure

1 tsp. of goose or skunk oil

Croup Cure

Bind bottom of child's feet with cut-up onion poultice

Royal Cream Hand Lotion

Put 1/4 oz. gum tragacanth in 1 & 1/2 pt. of rain water. Let stand 3 days. Add 1 oz. of alcohol, 2 oz. glycerine and 10 cents worth of oil of burgomont.

[Marian Taylor Spink]



When George Ellison and Emery Jewett were young they planned to play a trick on neighbor Leon Crowl. Each took a cowbell and went into Leon's cornfield. They would ring the bell at one end

of the field and Leon would go searching for his cows at that end of the field. When he got there a bell would ring at the other end of the field and on it went. When Emery laughed Leon thought a cow was choking on corn and Leon (in no uncertain terms) told the cow to choke to death.

[Fern Diamond]



In 1987, the owner of the Eden Store contracted with the fire department to burn the building for it was no longer legally usable. One Sunday morning after church, several fire departments set fire to the store. A woman from outside of the area, not aware of what was going on, drove through Eden and told the people whom she visited that the firemen were spraying the trees and letting the building burn.

[Howard Fay]



At one time Loren Sweet used to set up his sawmill in a woods and saw the timber in the winter. Some days the weather would be warm enough that the men had to open the necks of their heavy clothing. The steam engine on a half-log would blow off hot embers of the green wood and some would go down the men's necks. The story was one man enjoyed seeing the other men dance, but he did not like to have them laugh at him.

[Howard Fay]

This was told to me by my mother, Nettie Booth Harmon. My great-grandfather, John W. Royston, came to Michigan in 1836, built a log house on a knoll, which is now the northwest corner of Ives and Rolfe road, then went back to Senica Falls, New York, and married, returning about a year later. Somewhere along the way, he cut a small willow branch to use as a cane. After having floated the wagon across some of the streams and following the trail from Jackson by the blazes on the trees, they finally came in sight of their home. When he saw the house he said, "Well, I guess I won't need this any more," and stuck the cane in the ground beside the trail. As all good willows, it soon sproated and grew into a huge tree. I remember the tree; however, it has been gone for many years.

[Dorothy Hall]



My grandfather, A.F. Wood, came to Michigan from New York in 1886, and settled on the farm (now owned by Nolan and Philip Hall) with the brick house on Columbia Road west of Mason. He bought both sides of the road, with 120 acres on the north side of the road and 85 acres on the south side of the road (which is now owned by Coe Emens). On the south side of the road there was a large wood lot. The road officials decided to make a road 1/2 mile south of Columbia, which would go through the woods. My Grandfather Wood told them that he had one road through his farm and wasn't going to have another one. This caused the curve on Sitts Road.

[Ludell Wood Cheney]



In the early days gypsies traveled cross-country in their wagons, often leading spare horses behind. They liked to camp on

country school grounds, if they had a water pump, or were near a stream. They would go to a neighboring house for eggs and supplies and, while the housewife was in the cellar getting them, they would steal silverware or anything they could find. They tried to trade horses with farmers always to their own advantage. It was said that they would steal children, so everyone kept their children in sight.

[Alberta Lyon]



Peddlers used to come along walking with a pack on their back carrying needles, pins, safety pins, darning cotton, thread, thimbles and any small household item to sell. Also, in the winter tramps would come along at night wanting their supper and to stay all night. It was hard to turn them away. Tinker Clark lived one-half mile south of Plains Road on Edgar Road. He walked and carried a basket with material to mend tinware. He made the rounds once or twice a year to mend or solder tinware. Everyone waited for him to come.

[Albera Lyon]



July 1, 1875, a plowing match was held on the Griffin farm, about one mile outside the City of Mason. The land was grassland, uneven and hilly, clay loam and plentifully supplied with stones. The lands for the contest were 24 feet wide and 25 rods long. There were 10 entries, one for a three horse team, with a variety of plows. In charge was a committee from the Ingham County Farmer's Club. The contest was entered into with great enthusiasim by all area farmers. First premium went to P. Lundy, second to James Graham, third to J. Beck. The site of this contest was on land near where the present Vevay Township Hall stands.

[Chloe Delle Brown]

In 1928, the first combine in Ingham County was an item of curiosity. Mike Oesterle and W.W. Barron purchased one of only two such machines in the State of Michigan. More than 100 farmers visited their wheat fields on Eden Road to see how grain could be cut and threshed in one operation. Those who were skeptical followed along behind the machine checking the ground to be sure there weren't kernels left behind. With the introduction of this new machine, bundling wheat, oats or rye and then building shocks to await the arrival of a threshing crew, became almost as archaic as the grain cradle and the flail.

[Don Oesterle]

M. H. OESTERLE & SONS

1928



My mother, Janice Steves Morgan, recalls visiting her grandparents at their Eden farm during the summer months and the flurry of activity which took place before the threshers came. (Hattie & Franklin Steves lived at the top of the big hill east of Eden on Barnes Road, presently the Louis Shaw residence). The neighborhood ladies helped each other prepare the large meals necessary to feed the threshing crews. These meals were of the utmost pride & importance to the cooks as the threshers had a tendency to remember the meals and where they ate them long after the threshing was done.

[Susan Morgan Kosier]

In commemoration of Vevay Township's Sesquicentennial a decision was made to compile a history of our township and to sponsor a gathering to honor the occasion. Sincere thanks are due to past and present residents of Vevay Township who supplied information for this book.

However, there is certain to be a wealth of information within the community that would have been included had it been made available to us. Also, there will undoubtedly be inaccurate data and/or conclusions which will be found by those more knowledgeable. It is hoped if inaccuracies are found or additional information is forthcoming on events covered or omitted that the township office will be contacted in order to set the records straight in any future publications.

The Vevay Township Sesquicentennial Committee was composed of the following persons: (in alphabetical order), Jean Bartlett, Chloe Delle Brown, Helen Bullen, Ludell Cheney (Chairman), Colon Crawl, Fern Diamond, Linda Diamond, Fern Emens, Dorothy Hall, Susan Kosier, Sarah LoVette, Jo Oesterle, Luciel Oesterle (cover sketch), Emma Waltz, & Blanche Wheeler.

Other Citizens who contributed by their attendance were: Versile Babcock, Howard Fay, Maxine Fay, Pearl Jewett, Pete LoVette, Dorothy & Ernest Lutz, Elaine Martin, Sandra Smalley, & Ethel Woodard.

This book was edited by Jo Oesterle and typed by Susan Kosier.

The following were among the sources used in compiling the information presented in this book: Vevay Township Minutes & records; Pioneer History of Ingham County, by Mrs. Franc Adams; The Bicentennial History of Ingham County, by Ford Ceasar; Managing the Modern Michigan Township, by Kenneth VerBurg; History of Ingham & Eaton Counties, by Samuel Durant; Past & Present Ingham County Michigan, by Albert Cowles; & The Ingham County News.

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